SUNDAY
December 24, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
26 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU
ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

www.thehindu.com
FOLLOW US
https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

Vol. 54 • No. 52

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

TROUBLED TIMES

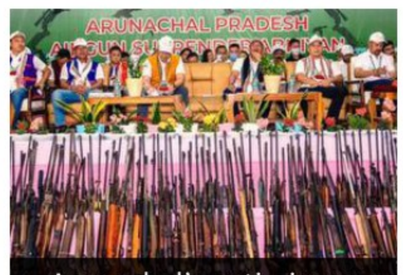
Rise in imports hits textile sector

Large-scale dumping of manmade fibre fabrics is affecting the industry valued at about $60 billion

BUSINESS» PAGE 15

Predicting extreme rainfall events

SCIENCE » PAGE 12



Arunachal's anti-airgun initiative tastes success

NEWS » PAGE 10

Harmanpreet swings momentum India's way

SPORT » PAGE 16

NEARBY

State seeks TAC's advice on vaccination norms

BENGALURU
Following Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's recent announcement that the State will take up a vaccination drive, if necessary, to immunise the unvaccinated population, the Health Department has now sought the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee's recommendations on guidelines for the drive.

» Page 5

KSRTC enters logistics business

BENGALURU
The Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Saturday launched Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation's (KSRTC) new venture "Namma Cargo- Truck service" and flagged off 20 new cargo trucks. The 20 fully-equipped trucks were launched with the aim of enhancing the non-ticket revenue of the corporation.

» Page 2

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

3 civilians picked up by Army after J&K ambush found dead

Eight persons were taken into custody after terrorists killed four jawans in Poonch-Rajouri area; five admitted to hospital; kin allege torture

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A day after four Army jawans were killed in an ambush by unidentified terrorists in the Poonch-Rajouri area of Jammu and Kashmir, three civilians who were picked up allegedly by the Army for questioning were found dead on Friday with multiple injuries. Five more persons have been admitted to hospital with serious injuries.

A relative of one of the deceased civilian told *The Hindu* that the three men were tortured to death and the families were asked to collect the bodies from an Army camp on Friday evening.

A 29-second video of Army jawans stripping the three men and putting chilli powder on them is viral on social media. The men are seen lying lifeless on the floor with severe wounds on their back.

Probe on: Army

The Army posted on X, "Reports have been received regarding three civilian deaths in the area. The matter is under investigation. Indian Army stands committed to extending full support and cooperation in the conduct of investigations."

The J&K Police were in the process of registering a criminal case into the death of the civilians, who were identified as Mohammad Showkat, 22, Safeer Hussain, 45, and Shabir Ahmad, 32. The Information and Public Relations Department of Jammu and Kashmir posted on X that legal action had been initiated in the matter.

"The death of three civilians was reported yesterday in Baffliaz of Poonch district. The medical legal formalities was conducted and legal action in this matter has been initiated by the appropriate authority. Government has announced compensation for each of the deceased. Further, government has also announced compassionate appointments to the next of kin of each deceased," it said.

Javed Ahmed, cousin of Showkat, said it was his relative and two others from Topi Mir village who are seen in the video. The men were from the tribal Gujjar Bakarwal community.

Flare-up: National Conference leaders protest over civilian killings in Poonch in Srinagar on Saturday. NISSAR AHMAD

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Vessel with 20 Indians on board hit by drone; Navy, Coast Guard step in

Dinakar Peri
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Liberia-flagged merchant vessel, Chem Pluto. ICG

In what could be the crisis in the Red Sea spilling close to Indian waters, a Liberia-flagged merchant vessel, *Chem Pluto*, was hit by a suspected drone on Saturday just outside the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The Coast Guard and the Navy swung into action to assist the vessel that suffered significant damage, though the crew were reported safe. The vessel is now heading towards Mumbai.

The ship with 21 crew members – 20 Indians and one Vietnamese national – was located around 217 nautical miles from the Porbandar coast in the Arabian Sea when it was hit.

"The vessel has started making its way towards Mumbai post undertaking damage assessment and repairs on its power generation systems. The vessel is likely to enter Mumbai and has sought escort assistance due to steering issues. *ICGS Vikram* will be escorting the ship during its passage," Commandant Niranjan Pratap Singh, PRO, Indian Coast Guard, said in a statement.

Mangaluru-bound ship

Earlier in the day, the Coast Guard directed *ICGS Vikram*, which was on deployment in the Indian EEZ, towards the merchant vessel. The Liberia-flagged tanker was moving from Saudi Arabia to Mangaluru with crude, as per marine tracking portals.

A Coast Guard Dornier aircraft reached the location for visual inspection and established communication with *Chem Pluto*, Commandant Singh said.

The Navy too dispatched a maritime patrol aircraft which arrived overhead the merchant vessel and ascertained the safety of the crew.

"A warship has also been despatched to provide any assistance as required," a Navy official said in the day giving an update on the situation.

Chem Pluto reportedly commenced its voyage from the UAE on December 19 and was scheduled to arrive at the New Mangalore Port on December 25, the Coast Guard stated.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

The scent of Mysore Sandal to come all the way from Down Under

Sandalwood oil production by KSDL (in kg)

Year	Quantity	Value (in ₹crore)
2019-20	1,904.51	38.92
2020-21	4,068.25	104.57
2021-22	3,146.65	79.10
2022-23	2,166.8	48.43
2023-24	718.92	16.60

Data till September 31, 2023 | source: KSDL

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

With a sharp reduction in production of sandalwood oil from 4,068.28 kg in 2020-21 to 719 kg in the first six months of the current fiscal year (2023-24), the State-run Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL) is all set to import 90% of its requirement of sandalwood oil (7,000 kg) from Australia for manufacturing its premium brand 'Mysore Sandal' soap.

With the company establishing its new manufacturing machinery (at a cost of ₹26 crore) and setting up a new manufacturing plant (₹28 crore) on its premises in Bengaluru, KSDL is geared to expand its production in the coming months.

Jump in sales

The company had been manufacturing nearly 60 products, including soaps, detergents, and cosmetics. With the rise in demand and jump in monthly sales of its products, from ₹115 crore in 2022-23 to ₹130 crore so far in 2023-24, the company needed to import close to 7,000 kg of sandalwood oil in this fiscal year from Australia for meeting the increased production targets, official sources told *The Hindu*.

The 107-year-old KSDL is the only PSU in the country which has been manufacturing and using sandalwood oil, which is the "fragrant ambassador" for Mysore Sandal Soap. KSDL requires about 600 kg of sandalwood oil for manufacturing its premium brand soap and other products. In 2022-23, it imported 4,000 kg of oil (₹157 crore) from Australia.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

KSDL TIES UP WITH FARMERS
» PAGE 6

Hijab ban withdrawal: Only 'contemplating' such a move, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU/BENGALURU

A day after stating categorically that his government would do away with the ban on wearing hijab in classrooms, imposed by the erstwhile BJP regime, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday toned down his stand, saying that the State government was as yet only "contemplating" such a move.

This came even as the BJP attacked him for the proposal, calling it an attempt to "sow the seeds of religious identity politics" in classrooms.

'Not yet done'

When reporters asked Mr. Siddaramaiah on Saturday in Mysuru if the withdrawal of order on ban on hijab would come into effect from the ensuing academic year, the Chief Minister said the government had not yet withdrawn it. "When a question in the regard was asked, I said that the government was thinking about withdrawing it," he maintained.

He said that he would have to discuss the matter with officials at the government level and take a decision.

'U-turn'

The Chief Minister dithering on the issue also drew criticism from the BJP. Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, R. Ashok, took to his social media handle to describe the Chief Minister's latest statement on hijab ban withdrawal as a "U-turn" and a sign of him "losing control over the administration".

He said: "The Chief Minister had floated the idea yesterday to cover up his government's failures, but changed his tune after strong reactions emerged."

Meanwhile, sources in the Department of School Education and Literacy said that they had as yet got no direction on revoking the earlier order, which in effect banned hijab in classrooms. "Not even any kind of preliminary discussion has been held in this regard," said an official.

On Friday, speaking at an event in Nanjangud in Mysuru district, Mr. Siddaramaiah vehemently stated that people could wear a dress of their choice and eat the food of their choice, while stating that the circular banning hijab in educational institutions would be withdrawn.

'CM MUST WALK THE TALK'
» PAGE 6

THE HINDU

News in Frames

Changing times: Visitors flock the streets near the iconic *Ghanta Ghar* in Srinagar.

Road ahead: The newly built road on the banks of Dal Lake for pedestrians and cyclists.

Floating luxury: Tourists explore the Dal lake in an illuminated shikara.

Reinventing Srinagar's landmarks

Walking tracks, all-pedestrian markets and floating cinema are some of the innovations brought in Srinagar in a bid to mask a conflict-riddled past

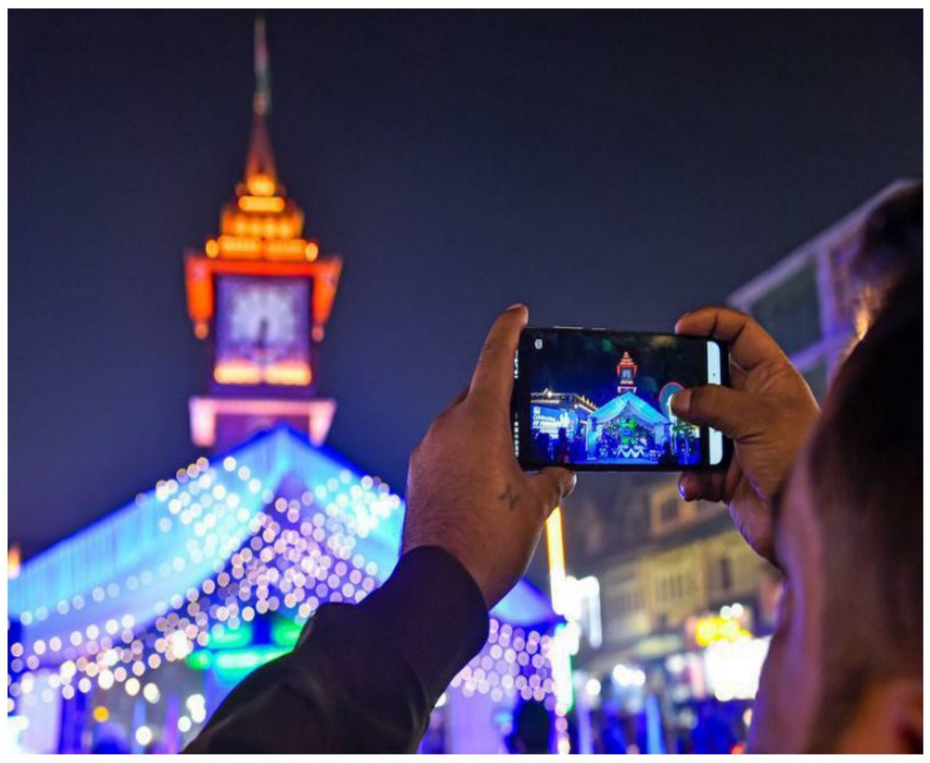
Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar is undergoing an unprecedented image makeover. The Centre, ruling the Union Territory (UT) of J&K directly since it ended the erstwhile State's special constitutional position in 2019, has reinvented public spaces and landmarks. There is a rare bid to create milestones to contest the past marred by bloody conflict of over three decades.

The rights of pedestrians were restored by widening the walking tracks, with detailing for people with disabilities, in the city's commercial hub Lal Chowk. The 15-km cycling track has revived the dying habit of pedalling around the Jhelum river in Lal Chowk. The meticulously laid and well-lit fronts on the Jhelum river and around the Dal Lake have motivated people after decades to stay out and absorb the mesmerising beauty even after sundown.

The all-pedestrian Polo View market and Ghata Ghar square have tourists as well as local families shopping till late at night. These late-evening selfie points mark an end of the era when Srinagar wore a deserted look ahead of sunset.

The floating cinema on the Dal Lake with shikaras as front rows is among many features added for tourists who plan stays on the famed and beautifully carved houseboats. An old historic bridge, Habba Kadal, is being turned into a recreation centre with niches carved in wood for a panoramic view of the Jhelum river in the old city. These projects have been undertaken by the Srinagar Smart City Ltd. at the cost ₹980 crore.

(Text by Peerzada Ashiq)



Iconic frames: A man captures a picture of the iconic *Ghanta Ghar*.

Nissar Ahmad
nissar.ahmad@thehindu.co.in

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, DEC. 24		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:00
RISE	15:40	SET 03:57
MONDAY, DEC. 25		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:01
RISE	16:30	SET 04:55
TUESDAY, DEC. 26		
RISE	06:39	SET 18:01
RISE	17:25	SET 05:54

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	30	24
Bengaluru	29	18

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Morning will cool. Day will be comfortable but humid.. Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C A slight cool morning with mist and haze will turns into a comfortable day. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur. Night will be pleasant.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Transport sector in Bengaluru makes significant strides

The expansion of the metro rail network and the launch of the Shakti scheme were among the major developments this year reshaping the city's commuting landscape. In November, Shakti scheme logged over 100 crore rides

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

REWIND 2023

A view of Bengaluru Mysuru Expressway inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March this year. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The year 2023 has been pegged as a landmark year for the transport sector in Bengaluru, which witnessed significant strides, especially with the metro expansion, the Shakti scheme, and the Bengaluru suburban project reshaping the city's commuting landscape.

Shakti scheme
On June 11, the newly elected Congress government in Karnataka launched the first among five poll guarantees – the Shakti scheme, under which women can travel for free in non-premium services of State-run buses across Karnataka. Since its launch, the scheme has garnered positive reception from women passengers.

In November, the Shakti scheme achieved the milestone of logging over 100 crore rides. Till December 19, 117,65,72,568 crore women passengers have utilised the initiative to travel across the State. The cumulative value of tickets purchased by these women passengers amounts to ₹2,809,92,94,420.

In response to public demands for effective implementation of the Shakti scheme, State-run road transport corporations, including Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, BMTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC, are gearing up to acquire additional buses in the early months of 2024.

This year, BMTC will induct 100 electric buses out of 921 buses that will be inducted in a phased manner. The government has approved adding 3,888 new buses to all RTCs.

Namma Metro
Bengaluru's metro system has been a beacon of hope for commuters. In 2023, the metro network expanded its reach, connecting previously underserved areas and offering a more efficient alternative to road transport. The extension of the Purple Line and the completion of Phase 2 have been instrumental in easing the burden on the city's roads.

The uninterrupted connection between Challaghatta and Whitefield spans 37 stations, allowing commuters to traverse the entire distance in just 76 minutes. This hassle-free journey is accompanied by a fixed end-to-end fare of ₹60. Currently, Bengaluru's metro system stands as the second-longest operational network in India, spanning a total of 73.81 km, trailing behind only the Delhi Metro.

In addition, the Nagasandra to Madavara stretch (3.14 km) on the Green Line and R.V. Road Metro Station to Bommasandra stretch (19.15 km) on the Yellow Line are scheduled to be opened for public use in April 2024. On the other hand, the Kalena Agrahara to Nagavara stretch, which is 21.26 km long on the Pink Line, is planned for completion before March 2025. The Central Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport line on the Blue Line is scheduled to be completed by 2026.

Suburban project
On the other hand, despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 40-month deadline set last year for the completion of the suburban rail project, progress has been sluggish. The absence of a full-time managing director for the Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited (K-RIDE), entrusted with the execution of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project, is also impeding development.

The project is underway across four corridors – Sampige, Mallige, Parijaata, and Kanaka. The Sampige corridor extends 41.4 km with 15 stations, connecting Kempegowda railway station and Devanahalli. Mallige spans 25 km with 14 stations, linking Baiyappanahalli terminal and Chikkabanavara. Parijaata covers 35.52 km with nine stations, connecting Kengeri and Whitefield. Lastly, Kanaka stretches 46.24 km with 19 stations, running from Heelalige to Rajankunte.

The Ministry of Railways has also proposed to develop a circular rail network of around 287 km on the outskirts of Bengaluru. The proposed network around Bengaluru city will connect Nidvanda-Doddaballapur (40.9 km), Doddaballapur-Devanahalli (28.5 km), Devanahalli-Malur (46.5 km), Malur-Heelalige (52 km), Hejjala-Solur (43.5 km), Solur-Nidavanda (34.2 km), and Hejjala-Heelalagi (42 km).

Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway
Meanwhile, in March 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the much-awaited Bengaluru-Mysuru Access-Controlled Expressway. It spans 119 km, featuring 10 lanes and an elevated design, constructed at a total cost of ₹8,000 crore. The project was executed in two phases, marking a significant milestone in transportation infrastructure connecting the two cities.

From Page One

Scent of Mysore Sandal to come from Down Under

Shortage of sandalwood in recent years was the prime reason for stoppage of the manufacture and sale of oil in small bottles by KSDL.

Currently, KSDL has been able to manufacture about 10% of its oil requirement from sandalwood transported from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

Forest departments of States would transport wood to the KSDL factory in Mysuru, which is the only factory that distils oil from the wood, on an industrial scale, the sources said. The PSU is expected to reach a turnover of ₹2,000 crore in 2023-24. It recorded a turnover of ₹1,375 crore in 2022-23 as against ₹1,104 crore in 2021-22, an increase of 25%.

INBRIEF

Twenty injured as private bus falls into lakebed

Twenty people sustained injuries when a private bus lost control on the tankbund road of Bidaraguppe Lake on Attibele – Sarjapura Main Road and fell into the adjoining lakebed on Saturday morning. The bus had over 50 people and had started from Chikka Bellandur and was heading towards Om Shakti temple in Tamil Nadu. On the tankbund road of Bidaraguppe Lake on Attibele - Sarjapura Main Road, the driver lost control and the bus toppled into the adjoining dry lake bed.

The lake bed was not very deep, and nearly 20 people on the bus suffered minor injuries in the accident. Passersby rushed to the spot, rescued all those on the bus, and rushed them to the hospital. However, all have suffered minor injuries and are said to be out of danger.

Externed history-sheeter arrested for living in city

A history-sheeter, who was externed, was found to be living in the city and arrested. Syed Naseer, was externed to the neighbouring Ramanagara district on April 26 for one year. He has 12 cases against him, including eight in Shivajinagar and one each in Bharathinagar, Ashoknagar, Commercial Street, and Pulikeshinagar. Sleuths from the Organised Crime Wing of the Central Crime Branch tracked him down and arrested him.

New set of airport buses from Madavara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation has started Vayu Vajra buses from Madavara Nice Road Junction (BIEC) to Kempegowda International Airport for the convenience of passengers travelling from Tumakuru Road side to the airport. Route Number KIA 18 from Madavara Nice Road Junction (BIEC) to KIA will have five schedules and 27 trips daily.

Transport Minister Ramalainga Reddy inaugurated the new routes on Saturday, including Route No. NICE-10 which will ply between Madavara Nice Road Junction (BIEC) to Electronics City via NICE Road. He also inaugurated six metro feeder buses from Jalahalli metro station and Dasarahalli.

Three held for intimidating Kerala couple

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Mangaluru North Police have arrested three persons on charges of intimidating a young couple from Kerala in Mangaluru on December 21.

Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal said the couple was allegedly stopped by a person at Hampankatte. The person demanded that they show their identity cards to verify if they belonged to different communities.

KSRTC enters logistics business

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The new KSRTC cargo vehicles under the 'Namma Cargo' truck service during the flagging off event in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI

The Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Saturday launched Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation's (KSRTC) new venture "Namma Cargo-Truck service" and flagged off 20 new cargo trucks.

The 20 fully-equipped trucks were launched with the aim of enhancing the non-ticket revenue of the corporation. Mr. Reddy informed that 100 trucks would be inducted in a month and 500 trucks in a year's time. "Basaveshwara bus station at Peenya will be utilised as a depot for operation and maintenance of these trucks, and remaining vacant space will be provided to government companies to get commercial revenue," he added.

The KSRTC also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with KMS Coach Builders Pvt. Ltd. for lending its cargo truck services on a rental basis for a period of two months. Similarly, it has entered into an agreement with S.M. Kannappa Automobiles (P) Ltd. for a period of one-month, marking significant development in the transportation sector, KSRTC officials said.

"In order to capitalise on our strength in the passenger transport business in 2021, KSRTC ventured into the logistics business under the brand name of "Namma cargo" to carry parcels in KSRTC route buses. Taking this forward, KSRTC is now introducing a brand new "Namma Cargo-Truck service" fitted with GPS for goods transportation," V. Anbukumar, Managing Director of KSRTC, said.

The features of the truck include dedicated trucks to transport goods throughout Karnataka with secure, speedy and reliable services, trucks are completely secure with closed containers.

The truck service is available from Bengaluru, Mysuru, Tumkuru, Hassan, Mangaluru, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Kolar, and Davanagere to various places in Karnataka. For more details, people can contact KSRTC call centre Number 080-26252625 and e-mail: logistics@ksrtc.org

KSRTC has crafted a logo featuring dark blue branding for its trucks. According to officials, this choice symbolises reliability, authority, and knowledge, highlighting the significance of the dark blue colour in KSRTC trucks.

Forcing students to clean school toilets is intolerable: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Recent reports of students being forced to clean school toilets is an extremely deplorable act, and such acts are intolerable," Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on December 23.

He expressed his displeasure about students being forced to clean toilets in Government Model Higher Primary School of Andhrahalli, Bengaluru province on X and said the Department of School Education and Literacy has already taken immediate action against the teachers responsible.

"I have instructed the Minister of the Department of School Education and Literacy to take strict action against the perpetrators if such incidents occur in other schools. I have also informed the Minister of Social Welfare to keep a watch on hostels of schools and colleges," he added. "I have advised the Minister of the Department of School Education and Literacy that every school must have separate toilets for boys and girls and to appoint staff to clean these daily. I have also asked for a survey and reports from the District Education Officers on this matter," he said.

Headmistress arrested
Meanwhile, acting on a plaint gainst the headmistress of the school by Block Education Officer (BEO) Anjanappa, the Byadarahalli Police registered a FIR booking headmistress Lakshmidevamma under Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. They arrested Lakshmidevamma on Saturday, produced her before the magistrate who remanded her into judicial custody.

Vegetarian, egg-free baked goods in demand for Xmas

Meghnavi Ravuri and Jyoti Harpal
BENGALURU

This Christmas, many bakeries have taken the vegetarian, no-alcohol route in their delicacies to cater to the demands of customers. With home bakeries delivering dishes as tasty as professional bakeries and sweet shops while also providing space for customisation, they have become the go-to choice for many celebrating the festival.

Sumukh Mehta, owner of Eleven Bakehouse in Rajajinagar, said that bento cakes have been the season favourites among teenagers and young adults this year. His bakery specialises in eggless baked goods. "We are mainly trying to cater to people who want to enjoy the same taste but also want the baked good to be eggless." Their Christmas hamper consists of a plum cake loaf, tea cakes, gingerbread and chocolate chip cookies, all eggless.

Payal Aggarwal, a home baker based in Marathahalli, has been selling plum cakes made without alcohol and with jaggery instead of sugar. "My customers come back because they prefer natural cakes without artificial essence," she said. Aside from plum cakes, her most popular items are fresh fruit cakes and chocolate cakes, during the festive season.

Baked goods go vegetarian for Christmas. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Although most bakeries stick to the usual plum cakes and gingerbread, home bakeries try to create something different to appeal to their loyal base of consumers who prefer small business.

Little Yumms, another home baking venture in Krishnanagar, which specialises in vegetarian baked goods, has new and unique products, like gingerbread granola, peri peri nuts and schezwan cookies. "Whatever we have had has been through word of mouth. What sets us apart is our flavour profiles, which you would not find on the shelves," said Poonam Ankur, who runs the business.

The BreadHeads, a micro-bakery run out of the home of a husband and wife duo, said that their Baklava Upside Down loaf cake is one of their best sellers at this time.

Customers are not complaining, as they are spoilt for choice. "Although home bakers may be more expensive, their goods are customisable. They take more care in making their products," said Ila Thummala, a resident of Ulsoor. She said that she places orders for donuts, chocolates and the special cakes and cookies sold by home bakers for Christmas.

Senior citizen falls to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A senior citizen fell to his death on the stairs of his apartment in the early morning hours of Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Thimmaiah, 75. He was residing at his son's fifth floor apartment in Ittamadu.

On Friday night, his son had gone on a pilgrimage to Sabarimala, Kerala. Thimmaiah had a habit of waking up in the night and going out.

On Saturday, around 2.30 a.m., Thimmaiah walked onto the portico. However, he slipped and fell on the steps and suffered severe head injuries. He is suspected to have been left unattended for a while. By the time he was discovered, he was dead.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that my client **Shiva Kumar .M S/o Manjunath R,** intends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein under, from V. Narayanaswamy s/o Venkateshappa **("Seller / Vendor").** The "Seller/Vendor" represents and warrant that he is the sole owner of the schedule property and he has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the Vendor/seller further represents and warrants that he has not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from him no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential house constructed on **Site No.16,** measuring East to West 30ft, and North to South 50ft total site area **1500sqft,** and built up area measuring 850sqft, Khata No.1430, carved out of Sy no.110 measuring 2 acre 24 guntas, all situated at **Vijinapura Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Tq, Bangalore Urban District,**
East by : House No.14, West by : House No.18, North by : House No.15, South by : 20 feet Road.

Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 24-12-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby inform that my client **Sri. PRAJWAL.B.S,** Aged about 33 years, S/o Sri.Srinivasa Murthy, is intending to purchase the below mentioned Schedule of Property from its owner - **Smt. T. KOTHAMBAL,** W/o Sri.P.Natarajan, Aged about 69 years, Residing at No.53, 8th Cross, BDS Nagar Layout, K Narayanapura Main Road, Dr.Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560 077.

If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the Undersigned with the Documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s with in Seven (7) days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

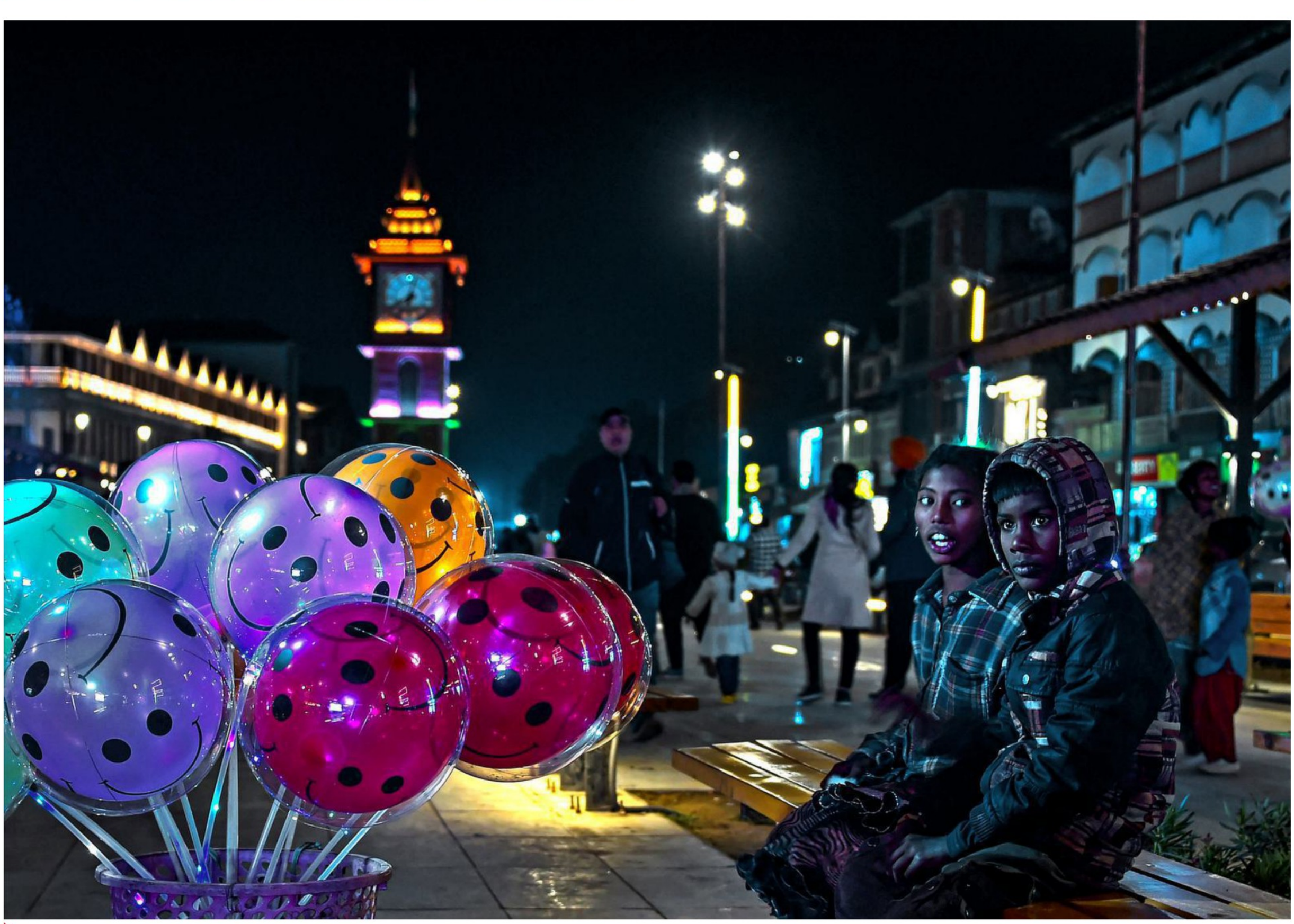
SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant Property bearing BDA Site No.644, Katha No.07/644, Situated at JNANABHARATHI (Valagerahalli), 1st Block Layout, formed by Bangalore Development Authority, Presently within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.130, Bangalore, Measuring East to West : 9.15 Meters., and North to South : 12.2 Meters, in all measuring 111.63 Square Meters. And Bounded on: East by : Site No.645, West by : Site No.643, North by : 2nd Cross Road, South by : Site No.558 and Site No.559.

SRI SAILAKSHMI ASSOCIATES
KRISHNA
Advocate, No.29, 3rd Main Road, Chandrashekar Layout, S.G.Kaval, Bengaluru-91, Mobile:9448828781.
Place: Bangalore
Date: 23-12-2023.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49960 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

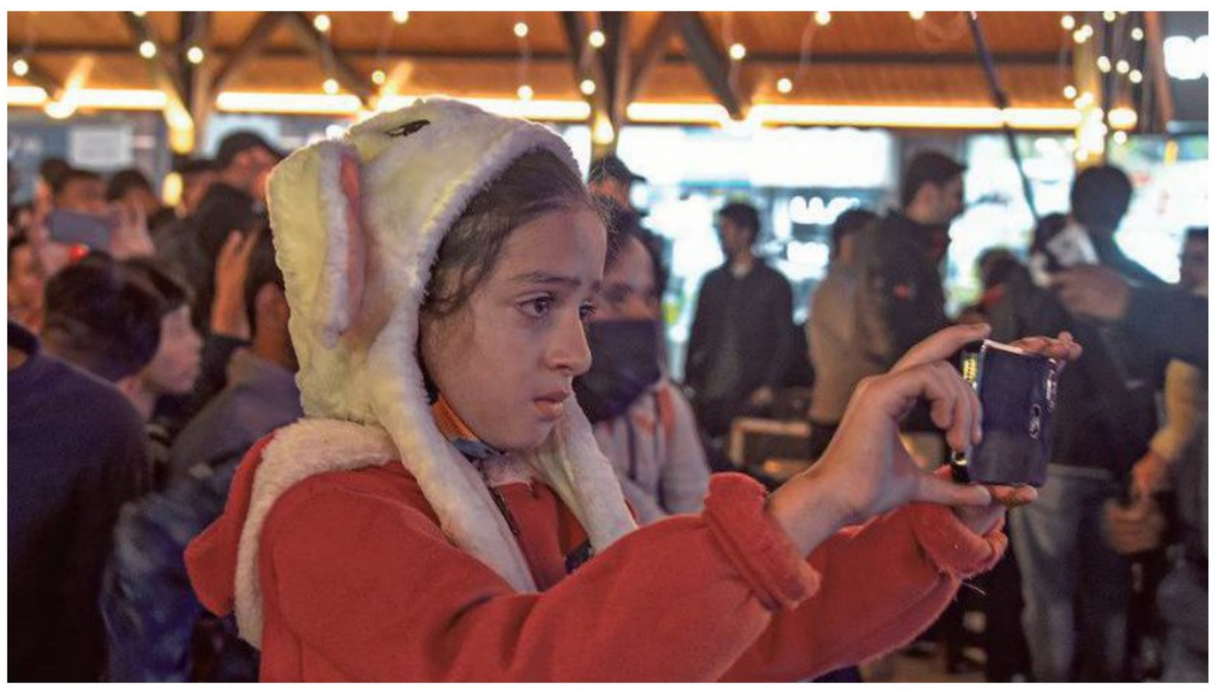
Valley of peace: Places of worship coexist on the banks of the Jhelum river.



Selling smiles: Migrant children selling balloons near the *Ghanta Ghar*.

Leisure on lake: Tourists inside a zorbing ball in Dal Lake.

On display: Handbags seen at a shop in the newly renovated market at Polo View.



Focus locked: A girl capturing pictures in the crowded street near *Ghanta Ghar*.

Out shopping: Local people visit a newly renovated market at Polo View.

ON STRAIGHT ON

SSVM®

The Day & Residential School

Dr Manimekalai Mohan
Founder & Managing Trustee

Affiliated to CBSE Delhi.

CBSE	GROUPS FOR GRADE 11
Group 1	Mathematics / Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology
Group 2	Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Computer science
Group 3	Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy, Applied Mathematics
Group 4	Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy, Computer Science

REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR **2024-'25**

FOR CLASSES
PRE-KG TO IX & XI

CELEBRATING 26TH YEAR OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

UNLEASH THE POWER WITHIN YOU AT SSVM !

WHY SSVM ?

- Serene & Lush Green Environment
- Assimilation of Internationalism Indian Values
- Libraries, Aero-Modelling & Simulation Space
- Welcoming Pastoral Caregivers
- 24/7 Health Care Facility
- Well - Balanced Academic & Sporting Excellence
- Nutritious & Hygienic Food
- Linguistics, Computer, 3D Printing, Robotics Labs
- NCC - Army, Navy & Air Wing Units

NURSERY & PRIMARY | SECONDARY | SENIOR SECONDARY

www.ssvminstitutions.ac.in

METTUPALAYAM, COIMBATORE (Dt.)
+91 936 445 4884

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

AFS Intercultural Programs India · DAIS India Didactics Association · IGBC Member · AccessMCA Associate School · SAT CollegeBoard · K12 LEAP Leaders in Education for Accelerated Progress · QS I-GAUGE Diamond · CIS Council of International Schools · NABET · WACP World Academy of Career Programmes · Cambridge Assessment English Authorised Exam Centre · AIAASC American International Accreditation Association of Schools and Colleges · #WORLD READY · QS I-GAUGE Institution of Happiness Rated by QS I-GAUGE · TEDx Youth@SSVM · idp · IELTS

Our Coimbatore Schools

SSVM WORLD SCHOOL
Affiliated to **CBSE**, Delhi
Singanallur, Coimbatore.
+91 934 445 1888
www.ssvmws.com

SSVM SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE
Affiliated to **CBSE**, Delhi
Fun Mall Road, Coimbatore.
+91 934 451 1111
www.ssvmse.com

RUH CONTINUUM SCHOOL
Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge International School
Early Years (KG), Primary (1-5), Lower Secondary (6-8) & **IGCSE** for 2024-'25.
Classes will drive upto A-Level in the years to come
Singanallur, Coimbatore.
+91 638 463 1313

RUH CONTINUUM SCHOOL
Diploma Programme · Career-related Programme
WACP World Academy of Career Programmes
IBDP / IBCP
Singanallur, Coimbatore.
+91 638 463 1313

SSVM Kids Casa
A HOME FOR LITTLE EXPLORERS
Pre-K - Grade 5
Mettupalayam I Coimbatore.
+91 753 889 9299

SSVM Prepversity
A Distinct Institute for
IIT/ JEE- NEET
Mettupalayam, Coimbatore (Dt).
+91 965 591 4141
www.ssvmprepversity.com

www.ssvminstitutions.ac.in

A BG-BGE

Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

ALLIANCE INVITED for our daughter Vinothini V, age 31, Height 5ft 2inch, B.E, MBA Graduate, Working in IT, Bangalore, Hindu, Saiva Vellalar Mudaliyar. Contact: 9524369998, Mail: vijayakumarcovai@gmail.com

Seeking High Salary match for Christian girl 33, 153cm, MNC 7024375195

COSMOPOLITAN

GROOM WANTED
CHRISTIAN UNMARRIED
Girl 40 years with
B.P.T & M.Sc (UK) Looking
Medical or Engineering,
Hotel management.
Groom age 40 to 42.
Expecting Abroad country
alliance coming for leave.
Full Family Settlement
Expenses ours.
Cell: 75500 86681

Inter-caste grandparents, 28; 5'1", Masters in software Eng, Russell Group of Universities UK. British citizen, high achieving, wrkg in MNC, London & well settled. Looking for professionally qualified Indian groom preferably settled in UK or willing to settle in UK. Caste/religion no bar. Mobile: 94839 50380

DOCTOR

DOCTOR GIRL 29/ 158 MBBS Christian Parkavakulam Mooppanar seeks Reborn Christian Doctor / Engineer Caste No Bar in BC / FC Ct: 9500323233 / 7397402231

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Age – 25. Fair Girl.MBBS, MS Student final. Seeks Doctors.Rich Business. Chennai or Any District.Ct: Catherine – 7824023030

GROOM WANTED CNB, 34yrs, MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family,Need only Doctors.Contact: 9710093999/ 8939691888

NAIDU MS OBG F.MAS 32 ,156 cm seeks suitable well settled groom CNB please send BHP to WA 9159150101

HINDU NADAR, 27/167, MBBS, MS, OG, One lakh per month, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9047192999

30, CASTE No Bar – MBBS, MD, MS, OG, MDS, BDS, DCH, BHMS, Siddha. Divorce. Own Hospital. Ct: 7824023030

MUDALIYAR / Pillai– 27. MBBS, DCH, Doing Fair Seeks Doctors BE, IT Govt Settled Family. Ct : 9363570731

DOCTOR GIRL 30/156cm, MD, General Medicine, Madurai. Caste no bar 9447493034, 9497168001

SAMBAVAR, MBBS, 25yrs/176cm, Fair Bride seeks Teetotaler Doctor Groom. Ct: 94423 86315

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 34yrs MBBS MS Need only Doctors, well Educated Family. 9710093999/ 8939691888

HINDU NADAR, Age – 31. MBBS, MS, MD, BDS, MDS, DNB. (OG) Fair, Good Looking Girl. Contact : 9445286222.

Seeking PQ Groom for 28 Years, MD(Derm), Pvt, 10LPA, Chennai, 5'2", Ayilyam, Saivapillai, CNB, Phone: 9444727378.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

DOCTOR

GROOM WANTED
Reputed Reddy Family in Chennai Invites Alliance for Daughter 33/165, Doctor MBBS, MS, Looking for Tall Educated Groom from affluent family CNB.
Call: 89256 40111

ENGINEER

Inter- Religion, Christian - Muslim, 42 Software - Engineer Bangalore, Telugu speaking, Upper Middle Class, No Religion Preference Ph: 9182734077.

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

NAIDU DOCTOR MS Gen Surg 30, 164cm seeks IAS /IPS/ Business / Doctor CNB contact 9047020797

MALAYALAM

KERALITE CHRISTIAN parents invite proposals for the Re-marriage of their daughter aged 34 years, fair, slim, 165 cm, Assistant Professor in AIIMS from doctors, Civil Services or well settled professionals. Mob:9447144391, 9995465029

VISHWAKARMA GIRL, 29 yrs M.E, need chn based groom from same caste and religion. ct– 9789931336

GROOM WANTED
HINDU EZHAVA GIRL
Age-29/164 cm
Thiruvonam / MCom
Upper Middle Class Family, Kerala
Contact : **9495095011**

NRI

TAMIL PILLAI 32/163cm B.Tech, M.S working in Ireland. Seeks suitable groom (CNB) 91 94435 64798

Unmarrried 53/166 cm US Citizen Hindu with pleasing outlook on life Healthy well Educated and Employed. Please contact vasanthkumarp@yahoo.com

TAMIL

CSI TAMIL, God Fearing, Homely, M.Tech, 26 yrs / 158 cm, MNC. Parents seek alliance from God Fearing, Humble, Well Educated and Employed Groom. Mobile 9444002036, 9600022500.

RC–CHRISTIAN FLY, 26yrs Doctor MBBS Chennai Preparing PG 6 LPA. Seeks PQM Groom. Ct: 9840150090

NADAR CHRISTIAN Groom very well to do and well educated aged 31 to 35 for a girl, fair beautiful well educated (P.G) Very rich. Parents Contact: 9790787919.

✔ HIGHLY EDUCATED and well settled CSI Tamil Nadar family seek suitable groom for their convent educated, Master in Engineering (ME), fair and pretty, 83 born daughter, with cultured brought up and traditional family values. We Seek a qualified and well employed boy with clean habits. Marthomites, Malankara church are also considered. Innocent divorcees without children are also considered. thankannam@gmail.com, 9176070624

RICH TAMIL Muslim 29 BSc, MBA Elite Family Seeks Educated, well Settled Chennai Based Groom Ct 8122013565

Hindu Nadar, 29yrs/160 cm, Moolam / Dhanush, B.Tech(CS) working CISCO, Banglore / Rs.19 Lakhs PA. seeks Groom with similar Educational & Professional Background Ct:91768 00819.

DOCTOR MD(PATHOLOGY), DCH,38 yrs, Hindu,BC, Divorcee without child, temporarily working in Government, seeks well settled, compatible & affectionate Groom. CNB. Ph: 9176289180

VELLALAR / Pillai Rohini 28 MBA (IIM) AGM MNC Chennai 26L PA Seeks Doctor Govt Officer Prof. Qlfd. Groom. CNB. 9994113213.

BE, MBA 31yr Employed Divorced Fair & Homely SC AD Hindu Elite Family Seeks Groom blw 36yr Elite Family. Cast No Bar 9444952477

HINDU, SC/AD, 37/163, Fair, B. Tech(CSE), SWP, Moolam–Dhanusu, Chennai, seeks Professionally Qualified, Never married groom, below 40 yrs, From India/Abroad. CNB Ct:8754566571

TAMIL

IYER
Alliance is invited for a brahmin girl 29 years (hails from a big business group from south india)
The Boy should be tall and well educated and from affluent, big business family
BRAHMIN
brahminexclusive@gmail.com

VK KSHATRIYA Hindu Practicing CA Girl DOB Sep 91, 156 seeks well Settled Educated Groom Chennai only CNB 9500100848/ 9840200907

HINDU NADAR 39/160 B.Tech, MS(USA) , Self Employed Divorcee. Expectations: Masters in Engneering/BE, MBA and Employed. 9444895863/ 9047192999

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR 31/168 V.Fair Rich BDS. Doctor / Engineer / Business. Ct: 9486531194 / 8637481104

Looking for a suitable Hindu Groom (Caste No-bar, groom age: 37 to 43, with professional degree) settled at USA for my daughter 38Yrs old,studied MS (USA), Unmarried, Green card Holder, working & currently living in California.

Mail to lookingmatches@gmail.com

SC, 40 1st Marriage, Physiotherapist, own Clinic prefer groom in Coimbatore, Pollachi, Udumalpet, Erode region. Caste no bar.Whatsapp: 94891-76568.

✔ HINDU NADAR 28yrs/161cm, ENT Surgeon in PGI Chandigarh (family based in Chennai). Seeking alliance from Tamil, Hindu grooms below 32yrs. Masters degree. Well employed. Any good industry. Ph: 9841260989

PILLAI / MUDALIAR 35 fair Hastham MCA Well settled Chennai Seeks 37–40 Prof Quaf Working Groom 8220757159

HINDU SAIVA Pillai Bride, 1987 Born, Magham, Veg, Beautiful, U.S. Educated, Senior Economist seeks Groom aged 36-39yrs, Smart, Veg, Highly Qualified, settled Professional preferably based in Mumbai. Ph: 9994022477

SC/AD 32yrs/M.Sc, B.Ed, M.Phil, P.hd/Asst.Professor. Seeks Bridegroom. Ct: 9600855627

DKV 32/164 fair B.Tech (NIT) MBA (IIT), MNC Chennai seeks bridegroom from educated family. Ct: 9940507235

MUDALIYAR 31YRS MBBS MS Elite Business Family,Seeks Doctors & Business Groom's only 9710093999/ 8939691888

SC ROHINI 34/155 MBBS MD Working in GH, 1 Lakh PM. Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom. CNB. 94431 85185, 90800 86604

NAIDU, 42/150, Uthirattathi, Ph.D, Professor, First marriage, Sub-sec no bar seeks suitable Groom.Ph: 7358166806

ODAYAR HINDU 28yrs fair beautiful, B.Sc Comp.Science Work@ WIPRO Bangalore. Well todo family, Seeks Educated & Well Settled Groom 7974689578

BEAUTIFUL DOCTOR, MD, 36, 5'5", warm & open–minded, affluent Nadar family, seeks handsome, compatible partner. jdsppt@gmail.com 9345634365

HINDU/SC/AD/31/160 BE, MS in USA, employed in USA H1B visa seeks suitable groom from USA/CANADA/UK or willing to settle in USA/CANADA/UK. Ct: 9945223333

DR. MBBS MD, Hindu Nadar Age 29, Divorcee ,Viruchigam Visagam, seeking Dr, Govt Employed, Engr working abroad Also. Contact: 8939005008

THULUVA Vellala 36/160cm B.A, B.L (HONS)M.L seeks Employed,Educated Gd Looking Groom. Ct: 9710485384

Doctor,Mudaliar, MS, 28/168, Fair & slim educated&cultured,U.middle class fmly,Coimbatore seeks BC groom. MD/MS/DNB/MCh/DM.Ct:9994498762

MUDALIYAR 25y / 158cm/ Kannada/ Tamil/ Mca/ divorce seeks clean habits boy with very good family background (CNB) CT.9036778054

HINDU NADAR, 30yrs, Pooram, Simmam, B.Com, Divorcee with 3 years Daughter seeks suitable Groom. Same Caste only. Madurai. Ct: 98436 71081

RC NADAR, M.E., 34/5.7, Fair, Software Engineer seeks BC/FC Groom. Contact/whatsApp: 9886888775

SBI BANK, BE Age 29, 60K Per Month, Settled in Chennai, only Daughter, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct 6374767370

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

CHRISTIAN NADAR B.Tech 25/180/ 60Lac/Smart/ Clean Habits / Sweden GrownUp Bangalore, Origin South TN, Well Settled, Educated Family - Seeks Suitable Fair, Beautiful, God Fearing, Professional Girl from Respectable Family. Ph: 9113663607 98groom10@gmail.com.

HINDU UNMARRIED groom, 40/ 5ft 7inch height, fair, self employed civil engineer post graduate from Hyderabad looking for educated bride. Phone No – 9985637279

DIVORCEE

DIVORCEE, MUDALIAR, Boy, 46/178; Advocate seeks suitable girl. 9487709023; clc.karthik.slm@gmail.com

Male (40), Residing in (UK), Lead Engineer, Christian, LC.(Caste no bar). Contact: 9986559614, 9895414377

DOCTOR

HINDU VANNIYAR kula, 29/166 cms, Doctor, DNB, lives in Jayankondam Ariyalur district, Both parents Doctors and owns Hospital, looking for Doctor bride from same community. Contact: 9443834909, 9443576357

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 35yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

RC, USA 45/175, Divorcee seeks suitable BC / FC, Christian or Hindu Bride, Ct: 9443455743

RC 1973 / 165 cm MA MBA Govt. Asst. Man. 1L pm Chennai divorce seeks any bride CNB ct: 8148842983

CSI NADAR, 31/ 177cm, BE, MBA, 60000p/m, Seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9380791999/ 9047192999.

RC CHRISTIAN, 41yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, working for mnc, Chennai, CT–9500188067

HINDU NADAR 40/170 B.Tech MS Working Canada First Marriage Seeks Working Bride Caste No Bar 8148166505

NADAR 29/179 BE,MS working in USA with clean habits & character, reputed family in Chennai,Seeks Educated,Goodlooking bride from affluent,good family background. Ct:9444055509

TAMIL

36 /5.6, Kongu vellala Gounder, SW (engg) (BE, MS), working for reputed Company USA, seeking bride broad minded partner. caste no bar I believe in open communication. There is a minor, well managed health consideration that might require support on our path to parenthood. Happy to discuss over phone. ct: 8438688375

VADAKALAI IYENGAR NAITHRUVAKASHYAPAM, Hastham–4, May 1978, 6'1", BA (Hindi),BE,MS,(PhD),Free Open Source Software Architect and Online educator – https://neuronrain–documentation.readthedocs.io , Ilanagar Madabusi Paundarigapuram – Ahobila Mutt, Seeks Orthodox Bride Preferably from Chennai, Contact: K.Srinivasan, Ph: 9003082186, email: ksrinivasan@krishna–iresearch.org

SENGUNTHAR, 38/ 165, Widower, NRI. 65 Lacs, B.E. 2 Kids live together. Caste, Education, Wealth No expectations. Looking for unmarried family oriented girl. 7904495268

AGE 35, Handsome, Affluent Groom wants Bride with 10Crore Asset. Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce 7401489892

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR, 41 Mirugasiridam, PhD, TN Govt Job. Rs 1.28 L P/M. Divorced. No Brokers. 7904550883

TAMIL

THULUVA VELLALAR, Dec 1981, BE, Software Professional seeks a suitable match. 9442112385 / 7353847074 (w)

MUDHALIYAR BOY, Chennai, DOB: 23.01.1982, height 168 cms, Clean Habits, Pooradam / Dhanusu, working as HR Manager 10 Lakhs P.A, Legally Divorced. Contact: 95510 69123

BE, MBA, 42, Cyber security, IT, Chennai Tamil Boy seeks Good character Girl for his 1st Mrg: 77689 33838

✔ SAIVA PILLAI / 29 / Karthigai / 166Cms / B.E Software Eng in MNC Chennai Seeks Bride Contact : 9498357132

ISAIVELLAR / SENGUNDAR, 25/174 cms, BSC Animation working in Chennai 6.5 L/PA, seeks Beautiful Qualified and Professional Bride. Contact No. 9344779902 / 9789386525.

NADAR, 45,BSC Maths, Business unmarried without any expectations seeks Bride in same caste. Ct 9884136764

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 27yrs, BE, Elite Business Family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride 9710093999/ 8939691888

SC (AD),28YRS, B.Arch,Elite business ,well Educated Family.Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9710093999/ 8939691888

HINDU SAIVAPILLAI Thanusu Uthiradam 30,174cm BE MBA SoftwareMNC 10L/PA Bangalore Seeks Same Caste Bangalore workingGraduate Bride 9943570200

KARKATHA VELLALAR 41 MBA Govt. 12PA Divorcee well settled Seeks Graduate Bride Cast No bar Ct:94432 22859

HINDU NADAR 26/170, BE, MS, USA Rs.9,00,000/– per month, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:KA Ramannadar 9380791999

AGE 35 Handsome, Comfortable Groom needs VIP Girl and first Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce. Ct: 9600240593

LOOKING FOR a suitable bride for a high functioning autistic adult, B.Com, MBA, 29 years, working in a MNC. Tamil Brahmins or Tamil speaking vegetarian girls preferred. Boy is from a financially self sufficient family. Email interest to bride4viggi@yahoo.com

Hindu Pillai, 31 Years, Chathayam, B.E-ECE 5'9" Tall, Working in MNC @ Bangalore, with Good CTC, is looking for Pillai/ Mudaliar/ Chettiar Girl. Contact: Mobile: 9037950461.

WANTED HINDU Nadar Working Bride for Groom (Dhanus Rasi) who is 31 years, 168 cm, IT Employed, 40 lakhs PA, Product Manager. From Tenkasi District. Ph: 9600534244

HINDU SC AD, 38/ BE/ PGD HRM/ Director–L&D, Sftwr Co., Chennai, Unmarried Mob: 7824035052

TAMIL

BRIDES WANTED
Alliance invited from Senior IAS Officer,. Chief Secy Cadre for Two Sons Tall, Handsome, Teetotallers.
1. 29, 179, LLB, Law, MBA finance (doing) both from Premier Institutes .
2. 26, 168, BE, MBA working in leading MNC Bank as Market analyst. 16L/ PA
Financially sound, Intercaste Parents based in Chennai looking for Girls CA, CS, MBA , Law, MBBS, Non IT, from premier institute, upper middle class, affluent family from South India. CASTE NO BAR.
Whatsapp: 7305236868

TAMIL

REPUTED Hindu Kulala/Udayar family invites Alliance for son M.D., D.M. (AIIMS) 1991 born 170cm. Looking for Doctor Bride/CNB. Mobile, Whats app: 94875-74525.

IYER VADAMAL Srivatsam Thiruvadirai 28yrs BE,MS, Global Org. H1B Visa,CA USA $150K,Seeks bride studying/employed in USA preferred 9444914461

HINDU DKV Pallan Age 41/167cm Manager Nationalised Bank, 14 Lakhs PA, Wanted Bride Ct : 9965211259.

40YRS IT Professional Unmarried Guy Australia Permanent Resident Seeks MBBS Girl Willing To Settle And Work, Caste No Bar, Divorce Also Pref Without Child. Ct: 9884483605

HINDU NADAR, 31/176cm, BE, Rs. 2,50,000 per month, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9380791999

VADAKALAI IYENGAR Vadulam Uthradam 35/165 BE PGDM MNC Chennai Seeks Suitable Brahmin Bride Ct: 9884755154

ANY BRAHMIN bride for an unmarried Tamil Iyengar Groom 83 born 22 L Annum own Flat in Chennai. 9790983101

VIJAY B, 23.09.90, 5'8", B.Tech, Working in TCS Chennai, Kousigam, Vadamal, Swathi–4, Age diff. 0–5 years, Salary 1,30,000 p/m. No expectations. Ct: 9445466251.

BRAHMIN IYER Vadamal 37 Yrs Boy MBA (UK) Head Operations Bangalore 10 Lac pa seeks Iyer Girl any Sect simple marriage. CT: 89399-44644.

IYER PROPERTIED 65 Pensioner Good Health Widower No Issue Seeks Brahmin Life Partner. Prabakar 9741783922

59, FAIR, Clean Habits, Stable Income, Seeking issueless bride No Expectations Ct: 86104 46647

Saiva Pillai 28/180 Research Scientist Bangalore seeks Saiva Pillai/ Mudaliar Educated Employed Bride. Contact: 8220445782

TELUGU

TIRUPUR Naidu Boy 28/180 MBA (IT) Affluent, own Business, Bride from Naidu. 9994581873, 9047081873.

TELUGU

Brahmin Boy IT Engineer 33/170 seeks Alliance (Working or non - Working) from Brahmin Family. Contact :+91-9655730185

NAIDU 30/182 V.Handsome, MBBS, MD, SSIMS Hospital, 2000000.PA,Elite Family,CNB. 9043991629, 7299576666

REMARRIAGE NAIDU 45, Own Business, House, 2Child Age:12,10 Seeks 35–40yrs @Chennai 9840132159, 9840903514

KAMMAVAR NAIDU, Groom Age 33 yrs, BE, MBA, Australia seeks suitable Bride wanted. Contact: 9444495038

BALIJA 29/180 cms, Magam, Simma Raasi /BE/ M.S (Ger) working in Germany 51Lpa. Financially Sound. Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride–Sub Sects No Bar. Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

KAMBALATHU NAICKER, 31, Mse, Risk Analyst, UK 5yrs Visa Natwest Bank, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, 4000 Pounds Per Month Seeks Not Working Bride Any Naidu. Individual Brokers Welcome. 8525004277 / 6369477159.

BALIJA NAIDU boy 30 handsome B.Tech MNC, from Upper middle class looking for good looking, Qualified girl based in Chennai from Middle/Upper middle class with family values. Sub sects no bar.Contact: 9840234571

ELITE GAVARA NAIDU FMLY in Chennai Business,02/08/1999,5.9,Meenam,Uthiradam,Veryfair, MBA with Good Networth. Seeks Bride from Elite Family only (Sub sect ok) Ct:0–94440 71701

GOUD, 35/165cm, Central Govt.Job, working in Delhi, PH with artificial limb in left arm from Telangana. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9540459467

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM Fair Slim Good Looking 30yrs 5.10Ft Dip in ECE, Computer Application. Working Hexaware as Software Engineer. Salary 7.5L PA. Seeks Good Looking Bride 9840403377

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

EliteMatrimony.com

Exclusive matchmaking service for the elite from Matrimony.com Group

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 30, 185 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN IYER, 29, 188 cms, Software Professional, MS. Lives in USA. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 33, 168 cms, Working Professional, BS. Lives in USA. Parents are working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448343

BALIJA NAIDU, 27, 170 cms, Doctor, MD. Lives in Chennai. Parents are working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

MUSLIM, 28, 183 cms, Businessman, BE. Lives in Nagercoil. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN IYER, 30, 165 cms, Executive Director, BE. Lives in Trichy. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 23, 152 cms, Dentist, BDS. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 30, 165 cms, Sr Analyst, M.Phil. Lives in London. Father is a retired person. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

KSHATRIYA RAJU, 27, 165 cms, Data Analyst, B.Tech. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

CHRISTIAN, 27, 152 cms, Doctor, MS, Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 99629 76000

DOCTOR

BRIDE WANTED Elite Nadar 26yrs MBBS pursuing MD well Educated Family, Only Doctors 9710093999/ 8939691888

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

MUSLIM REPUTED family seeking alliance with their son 31y, M.Tech working in MNC Bangalore. Interest to marry girls from Bangalore or relocate to Bangalore only contact : +91 97865 09095

RETIRED PSU Engineer, divorcee, slim, 61yrs, 172cms seeks young looking, slim partner below 55yrs. e–mail: meshaju@yahoo.com

Nair Boy seeking Alliance, 33y, BBA, Working @ Chennai Ph: 7305242240

NRI

HINDU, AFFLUENT, TAMIL, SC (CASTE No Bar), 31 /170, MS, SWE, Microsoft in USA, 200k, H1B, I140 appd seeks suitable Bride Pref work / studying in USA. 9445006500 / 9445442020

TAMIL

SEEKING DIVORCED/WIDOW bride with no kids aged above 34 preferably software professional, well educated, decent family for a 40 year old NRI divorced groom based abroad native TN from orthodox family. Contact 9842666764/tenetg@ymail.com

SOZHIA VELLALAR, Fair Boy BE.MBA 27 Years 6'4" Employed, 58,000 PM Seeks Professional Bride from Sozhia vellalar / Pillai / Mudaliar Ct. 9840840596 / 9940026295

SEEKS BRIDE for Hindu Rajakula Agamudaiyar 30/180, Vrichigam/ Anusham boy, native Madurai, B.Tech works in MNC Bangalore, Ct: 9845519275.

BRIDE WANTED Rich Naidu, 31yrs, BE, MS(US),Working in US, Elite Business Family Ct:9710093999/ 8939691888

TELUGU CHETTIAR Unmarried 1983/5. 11 Btech, Mba Manager 14 lakhs/PA . Seeks suitable telugu/tamil alliance. Ct 9444559768/04479609970

VAANIYAR CHETTY- 37/176 Visagam MS (Sweden) working in Sweden 60 L PA, (Swedish Citizen & OCI) Seeks BE/ MS/ MBA/ MCA/ CA/ PhD Prof. Bride CNB. Ct: 98404 29799

TAMIL

SENAI THALAIVER (Chettiar) Avittam 44/165 MCA, Sr.SWE, Chennai 17Lpa. Seeks suitable bride. Brokers excuse. CasteNoBar.9486416625/8220648979

A WELL Settled Hindu 57 Separated, Serving Officer Seeks Broadminded Independent Women 40–52 as Companion &Soulmate Genuine Person 9585245551

PARVATHARAJAKULAM 30YRS uthirattathi Meenam BComMBA Accenture Blr Income 80KPM seek Girl at25 UGPG Raguketu homely Good family. Ct:9442539898

HINDU NADAR, Age: 42, Divorcee, Star Cancer Poosam, Children: two boys Age. 9 and 10 (hostel) Second Marriage is required for Nadar ethnic brides, No caste barrier, no expectations. Avoid brokers Ct: 9840075677

BHARADWAJAM, UTHIRADAM, 44Yrs, 6', MBA, Entrepreneur, 36L P.A, Chennai. Seeks Educated – Employed / Unemployed / Unmarried / Divorcee Bride. Subsect No Bar. Ct: 98403 29322

TAMIL GRAMANI / Nadar 30 years, Employed shipping company in Singapore with good salary. Seek a suitable bride. Ct: 0413-2344534

TAMIL

MAY,1992 BORN PG Dental Surgeon, Sengundhar,affluent chennai bride seeks alliance proposal from well settled doctors,businessmen & other of good family background preferably from same or equivalent community based at Chennai,Coimbatore,Bangalore contact Mr. Varadhan:9841158492 Email:3659pal@gmail.com

RC NADAR, 27yrs /166cm MBA, Very Fair. Multimillionair Seeks RC Boy V.VIP Family. Ct: 98841 88849.

Protestant Christian CSI 29/157cm M.Com, M.Phl, P.hd working as Asst. Professor in reputed Women's College Chennai seeks Educated, well - settled from decent family. Ct: 98403 38215

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU, 28/152cm, Fair, PG MNC Chennai Ct: 6380984534/saanvigklr@gmail.com

NAIDU COIMBATORE 24/172, Good Looking, MBBS, PG–Doing, Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 7299576666

VISWAKARMA 27 Years/ 173 cms/ M.Arch/ Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9176593428

URDU

SUNNY MUSLIM Parents seek an alliance for their daughter. Fair BE (CSE) 24 Years. Seeking Groom with Good qualification, well mannered with good family values. Preferred Residence in Chennai. Ct: 8220048809 / 9677014719

URDU

Urdu muslim 23/166cm B.com chennai Dip. in HR, International Business Management, Canada, Fair,Pious brought -up in Qatar,Parent seeks groom Pref. from Mid-East or other, well-settle God fearing Tamilnadu based Family. Wats App:+97455859272 / call: 7299227044

ALLIANCE Invited from Advocate practicing in Madras HC or Coimbatore Dist Court below 29 yrs Urdu / strict namaazi with good family status To my Advocate daughter 23yrs/5.3/BSc.LLB, awaiting Group1 results, preparing for UPSC & Judicial Service Exams, strict namaazi,Urdu,pattan,sunnath jamaath, no darga & wrist tied black ropes willing to get Group1 Officer postings or to practice as Advocate in HC.Ms.State medallist in 10th & +2 Father 94430-22319, Pollachi.

GENERAL

ENTERTAINMENT

LASER SHOW, Logo& Holographic Projection, Video Mapping, Magic Mirror &360 Degree Selfi Booth: 9364127077

WATER PROOFING

BUILDING SOLUTIONS: Waterproofing roof, Tank, Skylight, Bathroom, House painting, Fabrication, Carpentry, Epoxy coating. Macbond. 9448572697

SITUATIONS VACANT

MEDICAL

A REPUTED hospital in Chennai, needs Part / Full time Residential Gynecologists Ct: 89399 67777

TECHNICAL

TECHNICIANS FOR - INJECTION MOULDING
LOOKING FOR TECHNICIANS FOR WORKING IN INJECTION MOULDING MACHINE WITH EVA FOAM FOR A AFFLUENT COMPANY IN CHENNAI .
PH: +91 93601 20214, +91 99621 10479

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS FOR SALE

ENGINEERING SITE fabrication and installation company for sale, Rs. 1 cr, Chennai. Mob. 6385108584

FINANCE

IMMDT FINANCE Against Properties, Projects, Business,Cheque. 8148445107

PERSONAL, BUSINESS, Property, 3rd Party Collateral, Low Int. 7305912765

BIG LOANS for Property & Projects. Send Details WhatsApp: 90422 91851

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

Active cases touch 271; TPR crosses 5% in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With 104 new cases reported in the last 24 hours, active cases in Karnataka touched 271 on Saturday.

Although Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao had said that 5,000 COVID-19 tests would be conducted daily from Saturday, only 1,752 tests were done in the last 24 hours, of which 1,195 were RT-PCR tests. With this, the State's test positivity rate (TPR) touched 5.93%. Of the 271 active patients, 13 are getting treated in hospitals of which six are in ICUs. Over 86% of the total active cases are in Bengaluru. As many as eight patients were discharged from hospitals on Saturday.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil inspected COVID-19 preparedness in hospitals attached to BMCRI, RGICD.

State seeks COVID-19 TAC's advice on vaccination guidelines

The State's current precaution dose coverage in the above 18 age group is abysmally low at 23%

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Following Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's recent announcement that the State will take up a vaccination drive, if necessary, to immunise the unvaccinated population, the Health Department has now sought the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) recommendations on guidelines for the drive.

A file photo of a BBMP health worker administering a vaccine against COVID-19 in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Meeting on Sunday

Sources in the TAC said the committee will meet on Sunday to discuss and deliberate on the vaccination front, among other issues. Following this, the newly formed Cabinet sub-committee is set to hold its first meeting on December 26.

The State's current precaution dose coverage in the above 18 years age group is abysmally low at 23%. The Centre had rolled out precaution dose administration for senior citizens across the country on January 10 last year and for those in the 18-59 age group on April 10. Those who had completed nine months after their second dose were eligible for the precaution dose. After the third wave in March-April last year, COVID-19 was on a decline.

Although there was a small spike in September-October, there was reluctance towards getting the precautionary dose as people developed complacency. Till June-July last year, some were still not eligible for the third dose as they had not completed nine months after the second dose.

Now, after a gap of over a year and amid concerns of a possible JN.1 surge, if people want to take the precautionary dose, will that be the third dose, or will it be the first dose and the beginning of another vaccination circle? Besides, there is still no clarity on whether the existing vaccines – Covishield, Covaxin and Corbevax – that are supplied through the Centre, can provide protection against the new JN.1 strain.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. told *The Hindu* that the TAC had been asked to deliberate on these issues and recommend guidelines on the vaccination drive.

Virologist V. Ravi, former TAC member and nodal officer for genomic confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 in Karnataka, said the third dose taken even now will still be a booster (precaution) dose.

Two drug rings busted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police busted two drug rings in the city and seized ₹52.78 lakh worth of narcotics from them. These drug rings had begun hoarding narcotics for the year-end-New Year sales. The police have recovered 8.6 kg of MDMA crystals, 100 LSD strips, 2.5 grams of cocaine apart from other things.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

KARNATAKA STATE
ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Sri D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

Road Safety Campaign

- Do not drive carelessly
- Do not let your driving hinder other drivers.
- Do not overtake unnecessarily
- Do not perform stunts on public road
- Wear helmet while riding two wheelers
- Wear seatbelt while driving four wheelers
- Do not use mobile and earphone while driving

An average of 109 crashes and 32 fatalities are occurring in Karnataka every day. That means about 4 to 5 crashes and one death every hour.

#(2022, https:/ksp.karnataka.gov.in/storage/pdf-filed,road Accident_Report_2022.pdf)

'YOUR SPEEDING CAN COST A FAMILY ITS FUTURE FOREVER'
This photo shows the family of a road crash victim K. N. Purushottama of Tumakuru. He was hit by a speeding driver in Bengaluru while on his way to a job interview on a motorcycle. The crash ruined his family

Shri Ramalinga Reddy,
Hon'ble Minister for Transport & Muzrai receives grievances from the public.

DRIVE SLOWLY
Follow Speed Limit While Driving

Strive for Road Accident Free State

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Dr. N.V. Prasad I.A.S., Secretary, Transport Department
A.M. Yogeesh I.A.S., Commissioner for Transport & Road Safety
J. Purushotham, Additional Commissioner & Member Secretary, Karnataka State Road Safety Authority

A BG-BGE

‘Siddaramaiah must walk the talk on lifting hijab ban’

Vijayendra claims move raises concerns about secular nature of educational spaces; Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok warns of a Statewide agitation against the move

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) upped the ante against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who on Friday said that his government would withdraw the hijab ban in educational institutions, putting him on the backfoot, several progressive groups have demanded that he walk the talk and issue a formal withdrawal order.

A row broke out in January 2022 when six girls in a government pre-university college in Udupi were barred from sitting in the class wearing hijabs. FILE PHOTO

BJP warns of stir

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok warned of a Statewide stir against the move.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Saturday, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said: “Mr. Siddaramaiah’s move raises concerns about the secular nature of our educational spaces. By allowing religious attire in educational institutions, the State government is dividing young minds along religious lines, hindering the inclusive learning environment.”

Similar views were expressed by a host of leaders from the BJP.

However, several progressive groups that had fought against what was effectively a “hijab ban”, imposed by the previous BJP regime in 2022, have welcomed the assurance by Mr. Siddaramaiah at an event in Nanjangud on Friday, and demanded that an order to this effect be issued soon.

Many have also expressed their disappointment at him sounding tentative on it on Saturday.

‘Issue order soon’

The People’s Union of Civil Liberties - Karnataka, which came out with a fact-finding report on the impact of the ban that showed that several Muslim girls dropped out and did not write the exams in 2022-23, has demanded that the Congress government issue an order allowing hijabs soon.

“Education should be the priority and the State can prosper when all impediments to education are removed. A ban on hijab is not only bad in law, violating fundamental rights, but also ensured that the number of Muslim girls enrolling came down,” said Arvind Narrain, president, PUCL-Karnataka.

The Janavadi Mahila Sanghatane - Karnataka has also welcomed the assurance and said this should help Muslim girls to continue their education unhindered. “If the BJP politicises this again, it will only prove that they are not in favour of women’s education and freedom,” the statement said.

The Bahutva Karnataka, a coalition of several progressive organisations, in a statement, said that not only should the government issue an order withdrawing the ban, but should also “provide compensation for the loss of education and attack on dignity causing deep harm to the Muslim students”, and “undertake corrective measures for students who have dropped out to continue their education.”

It has also demanded that “an inquiry committee be set up to look into the excesses by the Education Department, the police, and the media between January and March, 2022.”

Hussain Kodibengre, State secretary, Association for Protection of Civil Rights, Udupi, said the Chief Minister should issue a government order lifting the ban to restore the “Constitutional right of Muslim women”. He said such an order would help the girls to withdraw their petition before the Supreme Court.

The hijab row broke out in January, 2022, when six girls in a government pre-university college in Udupi were barred from sitting in the class with hijabs. This soon spread to other colleges in the district and later other districts as well, even as a section of Hindu students started sporting saffron shawls.

The State government took a decision to empower college managements to prescribe uniforms, including imposing a ban on hijab, which was upheld by the High Court of Karnataka. However, a split verdict in the Supreme Court meant the issue remains unresolved and the petition by students, who were not allowed to wear hijabs in classrooms, has now been transferred to a three-judge Bench.

A ray of hope, says petitioner

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Tehrin Begum, one of the six girls from Udupi district who approached the High Court of Karnataka and the Supreme Court in the hijab case, said that the Chief Minister’s promise of withdrawing the hijab ban was “a ray of hope for those girls who discontinued their studies”.

Ms. Begum said in a statement: “We hope that the government which protects the spirit of the Constitution is elected to power in the future too to ensure that the rights of women are upheld and change is brought through education.”

‘Don’t play politics with our future’

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Muskan, the hijab-clad girl who was the target of heckling by a group of boys at a Mandya college during the height of the controversy in 2022, has welcomed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah’s statement to consider withdrawal of the ban on hijab.

Speaking to television channels on Saturday, Ms. Muskan said: “I dropped out of the exams and was doing other courses. Now, I will write the exams and resume studies in the same college,” she said. “Please don’t play politics with our future,” she added.

KSDL ties up with 670 farmers for commercial cultivation on 3,586 acres

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The State-run Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL), which is facing a shortage of sandalwood oil essential for its flagship brand “Mysore Sandal” soap, has tied up with 670 farmers for commercial cultivation of 3,586 acres, largely in dry regions of north Karnataka, including Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, to reduce its oil import bill. This is under the ‘grow more sandalwood’ policy.

Farmers can earn in the range of ₹30,000 to ₹50,000 per sandalwood tree if it was 20 to 25 years old and grown in dry regions. FILE PHOTO

The company will supply saplings to farmers under the principle of “share and prosper” basis. KSDL has planted 2,800 saplings in the Bengaluru and Mysuru division in the last few months.

On an average, sources said four to five kg of oil will be extracted from 100 kg of wood.

Oil is largely extracted from the root stem and branches of the tree. KSDL has one root from Kerala costing ₹1.25 crore, the official said.

Farmers can earn in the range of ₹30,000 to ₹50,000 per tree if it was 20 to 25 years old and grown in dry regions. The average price of wood per kg is around ₹6,000.

However, the official said many farmers are reluctant to grow sandalwood following a fear of theft. In fact, many sandalwood trees located in police stations, court and university campuses have been stolen, the official said.

KSDL purchased 94 tonnes of wood from farmers last year but the wood quality was inferior, as farmers cut trees before it had grown fullly

KSDL purchased 94 tonnes of wood from farmers in Karnataka last year but the wood quality was inferior, as farmers cut trees before it had grown fullly owing to a fear of theft.

“A national-level sandalwood policy is needed to ensure protected cultivation” sources maintained.

Monetising land

Meanwhile, KSDL has planned to monetise its unutilised land by developing an office complex on its premises at Yeshwanthpur in Bengaluru, for providing space for offices of various government departments.

The company has 37.04 acres in Bengaluru and it has utilised only 7.12 acres. In Mysuru, SKDL has 33.16 acres and has utilised 24.15 acres, while in Shivamogga, the firm has 25.09 acres and utilised 11.03 acres, leaving 14.06 acres free.

Huge vacancies

KSDL is likely to commence a recruitment drive to fill 771 vacant posts. It has sanctioned 985 posts, including both executive and non-executive posts. But it has only 214 regular executive and non-executive employees.

The company has hired a large number of employees on contract. It has introduced several measures to increase the work productivity of 1,860 employees by increasing the shifts. The production increased from 100 tonnes to 125 tonnes per day in the last few months, official sources said.

BJP high command picks ‘young and aggressive’ team of office-bearers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over a month after B.Y. Vijayendra was appointed as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief in Karnataka, the high command revamped the party organisation and approved a new list of office-bearers on Saturday.

Four-time MLA and prominent OBC face of the party V. Sunil Kumar, who was a contender for both the party president and the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly posts, has now been appointed as one of the four general secretaries, a crucial post in the party organisation. Mr. Kumar is known to be from the faction that had been opposed to B.S. Yediyurappa.

The other general secretaries are: Scheduled Castes (SC) leader, two-time MLA and former sub inspector of police P. Rajeev; former MLA from K.R. Puram, Bengaluru, N.S. Nandeesh Reddy (who seems to have lost out to Byrathi Basavaraj, now appointed as a vice-president), and former MLA J. Preetham Gowda, who took on the H.D. Deve Gowda family on their home turf in Hassan.

A.S. Manjunath alias Cement Manju, who won this time from Sakleshpur, Hassan district, has been appointed as president of the party’s SC Morcha.

Despite being in an alliance with the Janata Dal (Secular), the BJP has chosen to promote the party in Hassan aggressively, the regional party’s main base, by choosing two leaders from there as its office-bearers.

The list of office-bearers that came out, hours after a BJP national office-bearers meeting in New Delhi addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which Mr. Vijayendra also took part, set party circles abuzz of the “dominance” of Mr. Yediyurappa and Mr. Vijayendra in the party affairs.

“The list is a clear indication that the father-son duo have had their way for the most part,” a senior party leader said.

The four general secretaries to Mr. Vijayendra, 48, are in the same age bracket as him: Mr. Kumar, 48; Mr. Rajeev, 46; Mr. Reddy, 52, and Mr. Preetham Gowda, 41. With this, the party seems to be making a generational transition.

“The high command has clearly chosen a young team for Mr. Vijayendra. The choice of general secretaries indicates an aggressive style of politics electorally. Ideological aggressiveness has also been accommodated,” a senior party leader said.

Vice-presidents

Former Minister and Lingayat leader Murugesh Nirani, Mr. Basavaraj, and N. Mahesh are among those appointed as vice-presidents. Narasimha Naik (Rajugowda), Hartal Halappa, Roopali Santosh Naik, and Malavika Avinash are the others.

New office-bearers of State BJP

Vice-presidents
Murugesh Nirani, Byrathi Basavaraj, Narasimha Naik (Rajugowda) N. Mahesh, Anil Benake, Hartal Halappa, Roopali Santosh Naik, Basavaraj Kelagara, Malavika Avinash, M. Rajendra

General secretaries
V. Sunil Kumar, P. Rajeev, N.S. Nandeesh Reddy, J. Preetham Gowda

> The list is a clear indication that the father-son duo has had its way for the most part.
> **SENIOR BJP LEADER**

‘1.5 lakh medical seats will be made available in India by 2029’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

“Around 1.5 lakh medical seats will be made available in India by 2029 and this will help poor children become doctors,” Union Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi has said.

Speaking at a national seminar organised in a private college by COMED-K CARE, in association with the Education Promotion Society for India (EPSI), he said that in 2014, only 51,000 seats were available but now there are 1.1 lakh. “We are going to increase it to 1.5 lakh,” he said.

> We have brought about a change in technical education. We have revised the textbook and made it available in 13 languages.
> **T.G. SITARAM,** All-India Technical Education Council president

Sharan Prakash Patil, Medical Education Minister, said every year, not all Engineering graduates in the State get jobs.

The main reason for this is the lack of skills among students.

“We have devised many plans to fill this gap,” he added.

All-India Technical Education Council (AICTE) president T.G. Sitaram said: “We have brought about a change in technical education. We have revised the textbook and made it available in 13 languages. The colleges under our jurisdiction are proving that no IITs are inferior to them.”

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that our client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule given below from its owners **1.Smt. Lalitha.S,** W/o.Late Kodanda Ram K.N. and **2. Sri. Ruthvick. K,** S/o Late. Kodanda Ram K.N, both Residing at No.543, 4th Main, Sadanda Nagar, NGEF Layout, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038;

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that any person/s other than above owners asserting any right, title, interest, charge, lien, claim/s or any objection/s to the sale of the schedule property by the aforesaid persons to my client shall lodge the objections/claims with the under signed with in a period of **7 days** from the date of this publication.

In the absence of any such claim/s or objection/s with relevant records with in the stipulated period it will be deemed that there is/are no objection/s or claim/s on the schedule property and our client would proceed to complete the transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Eastern portion of Site No.1, Property No.53, Khatha No.53/1, situated at Hoodi Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, coming within the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Measuring East to West: 55 Feet, North to South: 25 Feet, in all measuring:1375 Sq Feet, and bounded on the: **East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Remaining portion of same Site No.1, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Private property.

R. Chandrashekar,
P. Abhilash, Advocates
Law Park Associates
No. 13 & 14, Ground Floor Gold Tower, Residency Road, Bangalore- 560025.
Mobile Nos: 9448050096, 9740761521.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

His Excellency, M. M. Rajendran IAS (Retd.)
FORMER GOVERNOR OF ODISHA
Entered into the Kingdom of Glory on 23 December, 2023

Viewing at residence, Dec 25, 12 Noon to 8 pm. No. 3, Third Street, Ganapathy Colony (Austin Nagar), Teynampet, Chennai- 600 018

Funeral Service at: St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk) on Dec 26, 10am.

A God-fearing person, a devoted Husband, Father and Grandfather

DEEPLY MOURNED BY

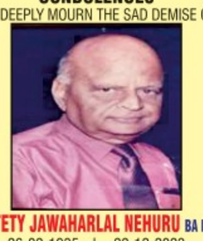
Mrs. Susheela Rajendran
Paul & Sneha Rajendran

Suresh & Rano Rajendran
Suma & David Vijay Jayakar
and grandchildren

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants."
- Psalm - 116:15

DEATH

CONDOLENCES
WE DEEPLY MOURN THE SAD DEMISE OF



GOTETY JAWAHARLAL NEHURU BA LLB
26-02-1935 | 22-12-2023
Ex- Director & General Manager United India Insurance Co. Ltd
Founding Member of Bharat Re-Insurance Co. Ltd
Founding Member of Vidal Health Insurance TPA (TTK Health Insurance TPA)
Founding Member & Director-Atlas Insurance Broker Pvt Ltd
MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE!
Mourned by:Gotety, Muchimilli, Bodapati & Ayyagari Families
Gandhi Nagar, Hyd. Ph: 98495 36239

SAD DEMISE

Malati Srinivasan
wife of Late Commander B.N. Srinivasan
(29-9-1931 to 22-12-2023)
It is with great sorrow that we share the news of the passing of Malati Srinivasan (Cremated on 22-12-2023)
Bereaved by
Children- Lata Pada, Geetha & Surendra Rao, Satish & Renu Srinivasan, Ramesh & Anita Srinivasan
Brother- Venkatesh & Rohini Bhimachar
Grandchildren- Rajiv Rao & Sonya Fatah, Umesh Srinivasan, Radhika & Bernard D'Costa, Arun Srinivasan, Rahul Srinivasan & Rashmi Benawra
Great grandchildren- Riyan & Zidane Rao, Rhea & Aria D'Costa
Condolences may be sent to: celebratingmalati@gmail.com

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

A LEGEND IN HER OWN LIFE TIME

Dr. BHANUMATHI RAMAKRISHNA
SEPT 7th 1925 - DEC 24th 2005
BHARANI and FAMILY
Phone: 044 - 2434 5825 / 98408 80985

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 160/-
B/W Display: Rs. 95/- per sq.cm;
Colour Display: Rs. 105/- per sq.cm
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES GIFT SIGHT

Book on Srirangam temple placed in front of Namperumal, the *utsava* deity of Sri Ranganathaswamy temple. M. MOORTHY

Book on Srirangam temple released

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu Group of Publications has launched a coffee-table book, *Srirangam - The Resplendent Kingdom of Rangaraja*.

Marking the release, the volume was placed in front of Namperumal, the *utsava* deity of Sri Ranganathaswamy temple, on the auspicious day of Vaikunta Ekadasi on Saturday.

Articles, reports and rare photographs sourced from *The Hindu* Archives make the 454-page book colourful and informative. Besides, there are exclusive articles written by veteran authors.

Divided into 11 sections, the book captures the uniqueness of the temple, within whose seven *prakaram*s dwells an entire town. Its rich aesthetic tradition, artistic splendour, and celebration of various festivals have been presented in detail. In short, the book will take the reader on a virtual tour of a place hailed as *Bhooloka Vaikuntam*, first among the 108 Divya Desams and an abode of Sri Ranganatha and Sri Ranganayaki Thayar.

On the occasion of the book launch, the Chairperson of The Hindu Group, Nirmala Lakshman, said: "*Srirangam - The Resplendent Kingdom of Rangaraja* is a book that brings history and piety together invoking the magnificence of one of India's oldest temple towns. It is a treasury of insight, information and stunning visuals that will delight every reader. *The Hindu* is proud to present this meticulously compiled, beautiful work to its readers."

Those interested may pre-book a copy now on https://publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore. Despatch will begin from the first week of January 2024. A 20% special discount is available on pre-booking.

Siddaramaiah to lead Karnataka delegation to WEF in Davos

It is expected to woo industrialists from across the globe for investment in key sectors

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will lead a 15-member delegation from Karnataka for the 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos in Switzerland, which is scheduled from January 15 to 19, 2024, for attracting investment in various sectors in the State.

Siddaramaiah

The delegation is expected to woo industrialists from across the globe for investment on key sectors such as semiconductors, aerospace, defence, precision manufacturing, electronics. It is expected to hold talks with Satya Narayana Nadella, chairman and CEO of Microsoft, and other leading honchos of IT and manufacturing giants, official sources told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

The Chief Minister will be accompanied by Major Industries Minister M B Patil and IT/BT and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge. Senior IAS officer and Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister L.K. Atheeq, principal secretaries and secretaries of industry and IT/BT departments will be part of the delegation.

The State will set up a pavilion at Davos for holding dialogues with leading industrialists, entrepreneurs, and Ministers of various nations. It is said that the government has entered into an agreement with a leading media house for setting up the pavilion and publicity.

The delegation is expected to follow-up the discussions held with businessmen during the tour of Mr. Patil to the U.S. this September-October. After the U.S. tour, Mr. Patil and Mr. Kharge said that several American companies have expressed interest to invest around ₹25,000 crore in Karnataka.

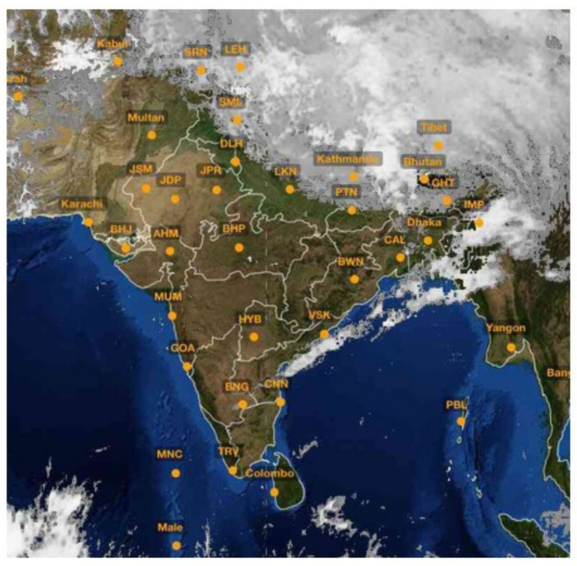
Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal will lead the team from India at the WEF. Representatives of over 100 governments, all major international organisations, civil society leaders, experts, youth representatives. and social entrepreneurs will participate in the five-day summit.

The summit this year is largely focused on four key themes: achieving security and cooperation in a fractured world, creating growth and jobs, Artificial Intelligence as a driving force for the economy and society, and a long-term strategy for climate, nature and energy.

The government is planning to hold a global investors' meet either at the end of 2024 or early 2025.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm and lighting with hail very likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Dense to very dense fog very likely in isolated pockets over Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.4	15.9	Kozhikode	—	34.5	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	28.8	16.5	Kurnool	—	31.5	17.2
Aizawl	—	27.5	14.4	Lucknow	—	24.9	9.6
Allahabad	—	24.4	11.0	Madurai	—	31.7	20.8
Bengaluru	—	29.0	16.4	Mangaluru	—	33.6	24.4
Bhopal	—	29.3	11.8	Mumbai	—	31.6	22.2
Bhubaneswar	—	26.6	14.4	Mysuru	—	29.9	—
Chandigarh	—	24.2	10.3	New Delhi	—	23.8	9.6
Chennai	—	29.9	20.6	Patna	—	27.0	14.3
Coimbatore	—	28.9	21.4	Port Blair	—	30.6	26.8
Dehradun	—	25.2	8.7	Puducherry	—	30.8	20.0
Gangtok	—	16.0	8.5	Pune	—	32.7	16.7
Goa	—	32.5	23.8	Raipur	—	27.3	14.4
Guwahati	—	23.4	12.2	Ranchi	—	22.6	12.1
Hubballi	—	33.0	17.0	Shillong	—	16.6	9.4
Hyderabad	—	29.5	13.5	Shimla	—	16.0	7.8
Imphal	—	21.1	7.9	Srinagar	0.4	9.8	1.2
Jaipur	—	—	13.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.8	23.5
Kochi	—	—	25.4	Tiruchi	—	31.3	21.0
Kohima	—	18.0	6.0	Vijayawada	—	28.8	19.3
Kolkata	—	26.3	16.9	Visakhapatnam	—	28.1	20.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	1	2	.29	200	150	
Bengaluru	.16	—	.19	205	181	
Chennai	3	.11	.44	189	142	
Delhi	.17	157	.97	478	459	
Hyderabad	7	.24	.56	251	—	
Kolkata	.17	.61	.27	262	169	
Lucknow	.11	.56	.46	352	262	
Mumbai	.18	125	.44	293	271	
Pune	118	182	110	286	161	
Visakhapatnam	.14	.72	.52	258	221	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 450 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

36-day-long 'Navakerala Sadas' ends

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The 36-day-long 'Navakerala Sadas', the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government's mass outreach programme which traversed the entire stretch of Kerala, concluded in Vattiyurkavu on Saturday evening, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan highlighting the massive public participation in all constituencies as a message to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Union government to correct its stance towards Kerala.

Mr. Vijayan laid stress on the fact that the entire yatra was aimed at highlighting the issues plaguing the State owing to the Union government's policies which are affecting Kerala's progress at various levels. He said that Kerala had been denied as much as ₹1.075 lakh crore in Central allocation over the past seven years, thus hampering many ambitious projects as well as day-to-day functioning.

"We embarked on this yatra to convey to the people these attempts to economically strangulate Kerala. Money that is owed to the State is being denied. How will we work for the State's future in such a scenario? Over the past 36 days, we have seen that the people have fully understood this message and are standing with us in this fight," said Mr. Vijayan.

"All these are now sought to be hampered. The Congress and the United Democratic Front (UDF) have failed to stand unitedly with us for a common cause, despite repeated requests from our side. They also made attempts to shift the yatra's focus. But, now that the people have taken up the message of the yatra, no force can stop us," he said.

Revanth to stress on six poll guarantees

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The six guarantees of the Telangana Congress government will be the focus of the Collectors' conference, with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy giving specific directions for their smooth implementation.

The conference of Collectors and SPs, called for the first time after the new government took over, will reflect the government's functioning and its priority sectors for the officers to work in tandem.

A senior officer said that the Collectors and SPs too are waiting for a clear direction on the government's commitment to the people and how they plan to implement the schemes promised. Implementation of the six guarantees in 100 days and taking the governance to the village level, curbing the undemocratic practices adopted by the previous government, would be the prime focus, the senior officer said.

The Chief Minister has already accorded top priority to addressing the people's grievances and organised 'Prajavani' at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan every Tuesday and Friday. This is to send a message that the doors of the government are open for everyone.

Mr. Reddy is likely to announce an action plan for organising 'Prajavani' programmes at the district, mandal and village level.

'Relief work under way in full swing in Thoothukudi'

The Hindu Bureau
THOOTHUKUDI

Officials and field staff from various departments are engaged in relief work in the flood-hit Thoothukudi district, and soon, the relief announced by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin would be distributed to ration cardholders, Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena said.

The top bureaucrat visited Thoothukudi on Saturday to take stock of the damage.

A village that supplies 'dolly' carriers for Sabarimala

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

A devotee being carried on a dolly from Pampa. LEJU KAMAL

Every year in the first week of November, the residents of Sathram, a sleepy village nestled in the tea plantations of Vandiperiyar, Idukki, witness a unique movement of its young workforce. Almost all its male members in the 18-40 age group, will be subjected to an examination by the local police for issuing a clearance certificate. On receiving the document, all of them head straight to the Travancore Devaswom Board office at Sabarimala, some 12 km away from their settlement, and apply for a licence.

Over the next two months, they keep ascending and descending the holy hillock several times in batches of four, carrying people on their shoulders to and from the Ayyappa temple there. This season, 34 youth from the village here are working as 'dolly' carriers in Sabarimala.

Thilakan, 44, who runs a temporary hotel at Sathram, said he first went to the hill temple in 1996 as a dolly bearer. "The charge per trip those days was around ₹440, and now it is ₹6,500-7,000. Now most of the youth in Sathram have moved to Sabarimala as dolly bearers," said Mr. Thilakan.

"Two eucalyptus tree pieces, 8.5 metres long, are used to make the dolly. Four bearers carrying a person in a chair climb the 5-km distance from Pampa to the Sannidhanam in 45 minutes.

The incline is quite steep," he said. According to local people, a dolly bearer earns over ₹2 lakh through the work in the two-month pilgrimage season.

Karuppa Swami, eco-development committee chairman in the Sathram settlement colony, said he worked for over 23 years as a dolly bearer. "I started work in 1997 and continued till 2020," he said.

Health issues pose a challenge to the work though. "Most youth take to this work in their teenage years. After 40 years, most dolly bearers choose another work as the years of moving up and down the hill with weight on their shoulders take a heavy toll on their knees," he said.

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga
EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/TE/JJM/Kppp-Proc/2023-24/1854 Date : 21.12.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kppp-procurement)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga. **Indent Nos: (1) 6461 CALL2.** Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only. **Few conditions of the tender :** (1) The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors : **01.01.2024 at 4.00 P M.** (2) Date of opening of Double Cover Technical bid : **03.01.2024 at 11.00 A M.** (3) Date of opening of Double Cover Financial bid : **05.01.2024 at 11.00 A M.** (5) Specified time period for completion of works : **6 months**

DIPR/SMG/No.98-12
zenkar/2023-24

sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

Government of Karnataka
(Forest Department)
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN PARK CUM MINI ZOO, KALABURAGI
Office Phone No. 08472 -256601, email:dcf_tgulbarga@yahoo.co.in

No. A7/ZOO/CIVILWORK/E-Tender/ /2023-24 Date: 21.12.2023

:: SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Detail of work : **1) Construction of Black Kite Enclosure in Zoo Area at New Zoological Park Madbool Mini Zoo, Kalaburagi, 2) Construction of Golden Jackal Enclosure in Zoo Area at New Zoological Park Madbool Mini Zoo, Kalaburagi, 3) Construction of Crocodile-Gharial Enclosures in Zoo Area at New Zoological Park Madbool Mini Zoo, Kalaburagi,** 2) Budget Head : ZAK, 2) Amount of Estimate : **Mini (In Lakhs) : 51.00, Max (in lakhs) : 88.00,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor /firm: As per tender documents, 4) Details of Tender application Amount and EMD Amount: Tender Fee & EMD As per Tender Document, 5) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: **28.12.2023 up to 4.00 PM**, 6) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tender : **30.12.2023 up to 4.30 PM,** 7) Date &Time for opening of Technical Bid : **01.01.2024 after 5.30 PM**, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **02.01.2024 after 5.00 PM,** 9) Add. Information : DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN PARK CUM MINI ZOO, KALABURAGI, 10) Address of E- Portal : **http:kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests &
Executive Director of Children Park Cum Mini Zoo, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/613/KSMC&A/2023-24

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DEVANAHALLI
O.S. No.201/2023
Between
Mrs. Masooda and another - Plaintiff
and
Sri M. Naveenkumar and others - Defendants
Summons to Defendant No. 6 under Order 5 Rule 20 R/W Section 151 of Code of Civil Procedure
Defendant No. 6
Sri B.C. Ravi, S/o B. Chowdappa, R/at No. 5/132, 2nd Floor, Tank Bund Road, Amaravathi, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064.
Whereas the above named plaintiffs filed the instant of instant suit for the relief of permanent injunction and for other consequential reliefs in respect of the suit schedule property against the Defendants. Whereas, the said Defendant No. 6 is hereby summoned / noticed to appear in the said suit in person or by a pleader duly instructed. The said suit stands posted for the appearance of the Defendant No. 6 on 02-02-2024 at 11.00 a.m.
The said Defendant No. 6 is required to appear before this Hon'ble II Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli in default of appearance of Defendant No. 6 on the day and hour above mentioned the above case will be heard and determined Ex-Parte.
SCHEDULE
All the peace and parcel of agricultural dry land bearing Sy. No. 101/P1, New Sy. No. 101 measuring 0.18 guntas situated at Byappanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk. Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on : East by Private Property: West by Sy. No. 114/3; North by : Sy. No. 100 and South by : Remaining portion of same Sy. No. 101/p2
Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'able Court on this 20th day of December 2023
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Office
Shirastedar
THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DEVANAHALLI
Name of the Advocate :
Sri K. Kiran Kumar, Advocate
KAR 2199/2006
Office at : # 74/1, Rama Iyengar Road, V. V. Puram, Bengaluru - 560 004
Place : Devanahalli
Date : 24-12-2023

CLARIFICATION OF NAME

I, Rowena Meryl Crasta, R/@ 4th floor, Pent House, Tower View No.16, 3rd Cross, Neary Holy Trinity Church, Ravishankar Residency, Sanjeevini Nagar, Sahakaranagar Post, Bengaluru-560092 do hereby state that, my minor daughter Esther Ruth Crasta is holding Aadhar Card (No.351689084088) and Passport (No.M7066852) and other documents wherein her name has been mentioned as **ESTHER RUTH**. But, her correct name is **ESTHER RUTH CRASTA.** I do hereby declare that both the names belongs to one and same person i.e., Esther Ruth Crasta. I further state that she will be using her correct name **ESTHER RUTH CRASTA** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 22.12.2023 sworn to Notary H.G. Padmanabha Rao.

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project

SL. NO.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount	Bid Submission Last Date
1.	Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart City Mission Corporation Roads in Thiruvananthapuram:			
1.1	Marakkada Road (ID 43)	2023_SCTLT_627783_1	Rs.1,26,11,036/-	27-Dec-2023
1.2	Pazhayasalai Road (ID 44)	2023_SCTLT_627820_1	Rs.2,19,26,153/-	27-Dec-2023
1.3	Punnackal Lane (ID 59)	2023_SCTLT_626123_1	Rs.2,82,97,346/-	27-Dec-2023
1.4	Pumping Station Road (ID 45)	2023_SCTLT_617140_4	Rs.4,97,44,352/-	29-Dec-2023
1.5	Shanthi Nagar (ID 73)	2023_SCTLT_626242_2	Rs.1,95,65,177/-	29-Dec-2023
1.6	Ruby Nagar Road Road (ID 184)	2023_SCTLT_628144_2	Rs.82,65,245/-	29-Dec-2023
1.7	Vrindavan Colony Road (ID 183)	2023_SCTLT_627989_2	Rs.2,75,87,578/-	29-Dec-2023
1.8	Thyvilla road (ID 72)	2023_SCTLT_626141_2	Rs.2,17,95,408/-	3-Jan-2024
1.9	Ananthankadu Temple Road (ID 64)	2023_SCTLT_627947_2	Rs.82,63,985/-	3-Jan-2024

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in

(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

Judgment on Naidu's bail plea reserved

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Saturday reserved its verdict on former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's anticipatory bail petition in Amaravati Inner Ring Road (IRR) alignment case.

Advocates for both parties submitted written arguments to a single-judge Bench comprising Justice T. Mallikarjuna Rao, who kept the judgment in reserve after recording the statements.

Mr. Naidu, who was chairman of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), P. Narayana, former Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban Development and CRDA Vice-Chairman, and some others are accused of abusing their official positions.

From Page One

J&K: 3 civilians picked up by Army found dead

There are around 25 families in the village, which is a few kilometres away from the ambush site at Dera ki Gali in Thanamandi where the four jawans were killed on Thursday (December 21). On Friday morning, the Army allegedly picked up the eight men from the area.

"People here have always supported the Army. Grave injustice has been done. They were poor people...we do not even have enough resources to organise a protest," Mr. Ahmed said.

He added that all roads were blocked by the security forces and Internet was suspended in the area following the civilian killings.

Mr. Ahmed said Showkat got married 10 months ago and has a brother with physical disability.

Shabir used to run a small shop near the Army camp. Shafeer's brother works as a porter with the Army.

Political parties demand inquiry

Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir condemned the incident and demanded an inquiry. Former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti asked "how is this 'Khushal Kashmir' or 'Naya Kashmir' where neither Armymen nor common people are safe?"

The National Conference and the Apni Party protested against the civilian killings in Srinagar.

The Army said on Saturday that search operations by the security forces were continuing in the area of operations after the "terrorist initiated incident at Bafliaz in Poonch-Rajouri Sector (21/22 Dec. 23)."

The attack on the Army convoy has been claimed by the People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), a proxy outfit of the Jaish-e-Mohammed. The PAFF was declared a "terrorist organisation" by the Union Home Ministry in January. The terrorist group posted photos of the ambush on social media. Multiple sources told *The Hindu* that three of the soldiers were decapitated. The Army is yet to officially announce the names of the deceased soldiers. The PAFF came to the notice of the security agencies in October 2021 after nine soldiers were killed in an ambush. The outfit had released an eight-minute video of the attack.

A senior government official said that there was no clarity on the number of terrorists in the region.

Vessel with 20 Indians on board hit by drone

The ICG Maritime Coordination Centre (MRCC) established real-time communication with the vessel's agent and ascertained nil loss of life and assured all assistance, Commandant Singh said. "It was also learnt that the vessel fire has been doused by the crew," he said adding that to augment the vessel's safety other merchant vessels in the vicinity of *Chem Pluto* were also diverted for rendering assistance.

The Navy's Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), located in Gurugram, is coordinating the communication between the Navy and the shipping company, officials said.

ED summons to Delhi Chief Minister politically motivated, says Gopal Rai

AAP to take legal opinion once Kejriwal returns from Vipassana retreat; this is the third notice issued against him by Enforcement Directorate in money-laundering case; CBI has questioned him earlier; Delhi BJP seeks CM's resignation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will take legal opinion on the fresh summons issued to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) only after he returns from his 10-day Vipassana retreat in Punjab, said senior party leader Gopal Rai on Saturday.

This is the third notice issued by the Central agency to Mr. Kejriwal in a money-laundering case lodged against him.

He has been asked to appear before the agency for questioning on January 3. On earlier two occasions, Mr. Kejriwal did not appear before the agency for questioning. Mr. Rai told reporters at a press conference that right now, there is no communication with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief.

Senior party leader Gopal Rai told presspersons that right now, there is no communication with Arvind Kejriwal. FILE PHOTO

"AAP will take legal opinion and discuss the summons only after the Chief Minister returns," he added, calling the move "politically motivated".

Before going for his 10-day Vipassana retreat, the Chief Minister had written to the probe agency, saying that the issue was politically motivated and an attempt to silence the Opposition in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Two in judicial custody

The case against Mr. Kejriwal is based on a first information report (FIR) alleging multiple irregularities in the formation and implementation of the Delhi excise policy. The policy was withdrawn after allegations of corruption.

He was earlier summoned by the CBI in the case.

On April 16, Mr. Kejriwal appeared for CBI questioning that took over nine hours. Two senior AAP leaders – Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh – are already under judicial custody.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) asked why the Chief Minister is not resigning from his post, citing a post of his on X (formerly Twitter).

The BJP alleged that the Mr. Kejriwal, on November 24, 2024, posted on the microblogging website asking why politicians don't resign as soon as they are accused of corruption.

"Being a patriotic Indian, I bow my head in shame when corrupt leaders do not appear before the ED, CBI and investigating agencies despite repeated summons, whereas they should resign as soon as allegations are made," the post shared by the BJP said.

Land-for-jobs scam: fresh ED summons to RJD leader

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday issued a fresh summons to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav in a railway land-for-jobs scam case, asking him to appear on January 5, official sources said. He was earlier called to appear on December 22 but the 34-year-old skipped the summons. He had called the ED notice a routine affair.

The alleged scam pertains to the period when Lalu Prasad was the Railway Minister in the UPA-1 government. It is alleged that from 2004 to 2009, several people were appointed to Group "D" positions in various zones of the Indian Railway in return for the land they transferred to the family members of Mr. Prasad.

'Extremists, separatist forces outside India should not get space'

Press Trust of India
GANDHINAGAR

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday expressed concern over the vandalism of a Hindu temple with anti-India graffiti in the U.S., and said extremists and separatist forces outside India should not get such space. He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the third convocation of the Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar.

"Extremists and separatist forces outside India should not get space. Our consulate has lodged a complaint with the (U.S.) government and the police there over whatever happened, and I believe the matter is being inquired," Mr. Jaishankar said in response to a query about the incident.

The police department in Newark, California said that they received a report of graffiti at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu temple. According to images posted on social media, the word 'Khalistan' was spray-painted on a signpost outside the temple along with other objectionable graffiti.

The Newark police said any acts or threats of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation, or other crimes motivated by hate or bias are considered very serious and given very high priority.

The Consulate General of India in San Francisco strongly condemned the defacing of the temple.

Over the absence of U.S. and Canada from the list of partner countries for the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, Mr. Jaishankar said he would not put any political meaning to this.

13 minors on plane held in France over suspected human trafficking

Agence France-Presse
VATRY

Thirteen unaccompanied minors are among the 303 Indian passengers of a Nicaragua-bound flight held in France over suspected human trafficking, authorities said on Saturday.

The plane that took off from Dubai was grounded at the Chalons-Vatry airport in Marne on December 21 over suspected "human trafficking", French officials were quoted as saying by the local media on Saturday. The civilian protection unit of the Marne department said the plane was carrying 13 unaccompanied minors and accompanied minors, with ages ranging from 21 months to 17 years.

The passengers were still in the airport's entrance hall on Saturday morning. Tarpaulin covered the entrance hall's glass exterior and nearby administrative buildings, while police and gendarmes prevented access.

Vigilance onsite: A French *gendarme* patrols around a terminal at Vatry airport in north-eastern France on Saturday. AFP

The aircraft is owned by the Romanian charter company Legend Airlines. Liliana Bakayoko, a lawyer for the airline, said all crew members had been questioned and allowed to leave. Legend Airlines "intervenes as a carrier", she said, adding that the flight was carried out for "a client of the company".

The Indian Embassy in France has received consular access to its citizens. "The embassy team has reached & obtained consular access. We are investigating the situation, also ensuring the well-being of passengers," the Indian mission said in a post on X.

An earlier report noted that France's national anti-organised crime unit JUNALCO has taken over the investigation. Special investigators are questioning all those aboard and two people are in custody pending further examination, the Paris prosecutor's office said in a statement.

According to the reports, the travel may have been planned by the Indian passengers to reach Central America from where they can attempt to enter the United States or Canada illegally. After landing in France, the passengers were first kept on the aircraft, but then let out and given individual beds in the terminal building. The entire airport was cordoned off by police.

French border police can initially hold a foreign national for up to four days if they land in France and are prevented from travelling on to their intended destination.

Human trafficking carries a potential sentence of up to 20 years in France. *(With inputs from PTI)*

Row over Calcutta High Court judge's husband being quizzed by WB CID

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

At a time when the Trinamool Congress government and its leaders are defending allegations of corruption before the Calcutta High Court, the husband of a High Court judge has alleged torture by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the West Bengal Police.

Pratap Chandra Dey, husband of Justice Amrita Sinha, was summoned for questioning by the CID earlier this week and his allegations have triggered a political row. Justice Sinha is hearing a number of cases including those related to the State recruitment scam and allegations against Trinamool leader Abhishek Banerjee.

"I was treated like a criminal, accused of some heinous crime. I was questioned by more than one officer and questions were asked only about my wife... The officers told me that they were not interested in the case details, but wanted answers in respect of my wife. The video [camera] was switched on and off as per their desire and convenience. The torture and harassment went on for three-and-a-half hours. I was permitted to leave at about 3.30 p.m.," Mr. Dey, a lawyer, wrote in a letter addressed to the president of Metropolitan Magistrate Court Bar Association. The letter added that a notice under Section 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was issued directing him to appear in the office of the Economic Offences Wing, CID, West Bengal.

Pratap Chandra Dey was summoned for questioning by the CID earlier this week.

"CID denies all the allegations mentioned in the said representation as concocted, baseless, and false and [they] appear not only to malign the reputation of the concerned officials but to cast aspersions on the ongoing investigation and to conveniently deviate from the issue at hand," a press statement by the CID said. The CID statement also said that Mr. Dey "used his influence as a spouse of a sitting judge of the Hon'ble High Court to favour Shri Utpal Majumdar".

The CID statement added, "Smt. Bani Roy Chowdhury, the complainant, had approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 482/2023 on account of the inaction on the part of the police on a property dispute between the complainant and her elder brother, one Shri Utpal Majumdar, and the consequential undue influence exerted on police by Shri Pratap Chandra Dey, who is stated to be the advocate representing the elder brother of the complainant and his family."

On December 22, Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay of the Calcutta High Court raised the issue of CID summons to Justice Sinha's husband.

Tribunals cannot direct govt. to frame policy: SC judgment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

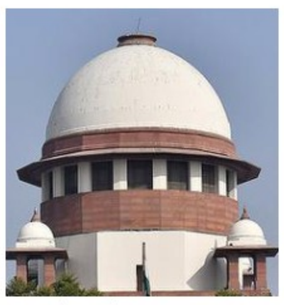
The Supreme Court has clarified that tribunals functioning under the strict parameters of their governing legislation cannot direct the government to make policy.

"The Tribunal is also a quasi-judicial body, functioning within the parameters set out in the governing legislation... It cannot direct those responsible for making policy, to make a policy in a particular manner," a Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Sanjay Karol held.

The Bench was dealing with a question of whether the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) could have directed the government to make a policy to fill up the post of the Judge Advocate General (Air).

It has been observed time and again that a court cannot direct the government for legislation or a policy to be made.

Justice Karol, who authored the judgment, noted that the AFT was vested with the powers of a civil court. The Tribunal did not have the powers of the Supreme Court or the High Courts.



Even the High Courts cannot direct the government to formulate a particular policy.

Even the High Courts cannot, in the exercise of the powers under Article 226 of the Constitution, direct the government or a department to formulate a particular policy.

The judgment said the creation or sanction of a scheme or policy regarding the service of defence personnel or their regularisation was the "sole prerogative of the government".

"Even a court with writ jurisdiction is often faced with situations that allegedly fly in the face of fundamental rights, and yet, has not been entrusted with the power to direct such formation of policy," the Bench underscored.

Three more arrested in a probe against Vivo-India

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has made three fresh arrests in connection with its money laundering probe against Chinese smartphone-maker Vivo and some others, official sources said on Saturday.

The three have been taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

The identity of the three people was not known immediately.

Judicial custody

The federal agency had earlier made four arrests in the case.

This included mobile company Lava International's MD Hari Om Rai, Chinese national Guangwen alias Andrew Kuang and chartered accountants Nitin Garg and Rajan Malik.

They are in judicial custody at present.

A chargesheet was also filed by the Enforcement Directorate against these people recently before a special PMLA court in Delhi and the court took its cognisance recently.

Indefinite hunger strike from Jan. 20 in Mumbai: Jarange-Patil

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Granting a nearly month-long reprieve to the Eknath Shinde-led government concerning the Maratha reservation issue, pro-quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Saturday announced an indefinite strike at Azad Maidan in Mumbai from January 20 to intensify his demands for reservation to the community. He was addressing a mega rally in Marathwada region's Beed district. In his address, he said that "crores of people from the Maratha community" will march to Mumbai on January 20.

Later in the evening, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde released a video statement that said the Supreme Court has accepted the curative petition filed by the State government pertaining to the Maratha reservation issue and has scheduled a hearing on January 24. "This has come as a ray of hope for the community. The State government's legal team comprising a team of efficient lawyers will present its view before the Supreme Court and make all efforts to prove that the Maratha community is socially and economically backward. The State Backward Commission has been gathering empirical data at a large scale on the Maratha community and its plight. The observations of the Supreme Court [while striking down the reservation] will be taken into cognisance while gathering empirical data about the Maratha community," he said in the video statement. He added that the Devendra Fadnavis-led government in the past had given reservation to the community, which was upheld by the Bombay High Court.

Jarange-Patil

Jarange-Patil had given the State government time until December 24 to meet his demand for reservation for the community.

BJP devises micro-level plans to increase vote share in LS election

Party plans to reach out to least 10 crore people by the time the Ram Temple is inaugurated on January 22; Modi, Shah, Rajnath and Nadda to address meetings in various constituencies from Jan. 15; PM lays stress on organisational strength

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

A meeting of BJP office-bearers from across the country on Friday and Saturday came up with micro-level plans aimed at increasing the party's vote share in Lok Sabha election in 2024 to over 50%, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorting party workers to recognise that organisational preparedness is a must to meet the target.

Chaired by BJP president J.P. Nadda, the meeting was attended by national office-bearers, morcha presidents and those in charge of States and State-level general secretaries of the organisation, with the Prime Minister addressing the gathering on Friday and Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday.

Plans by the BJP to reach out to at least 10 crore people by the time the Ram Temple in Ayodhya is inaugurated on January 22 were also discussed.

Narendra Modi and J.P. Nadda during the BJP national office-bearers' meeting at the party office in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

In a presentation made by BJP national general secretary Vinod Tawde, plans to increase the BJP's vote share by 10% in the next election was discussed. Sources present at the meeting said the Prime Minister pointed out the need for his government's programmes for the youth, the poor, women and farmers to be projected well. "He asked many questions on the details of how things are to be done, and said that organisational strength was the key, as had been demonstrated in the recently held Assembly polls," said a source present at the meeting.

Booklet on efforts

The inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya figured in a big way in the meeting on Saturday, with plans to prepare a booklet on the BJP's efforts at bringing this about and the Opposition's role in "blocking" the same.

Programmes for reaching out to households across the country will start from January 1. Senior leaders have been told that only those with invitations to the events be present in Ayodhya, and other leaders should identify a temple in their respective area and mark the occasion there.

Community outreach

With regard to community outreach, the party decided to reach out to Yadav and Jatav communities in Uttar Pradesh, the dominant communities among the OBCs and the Scheduled Castes, respectively.

"The Lok Sabha seats have been divided into clusters, where public meetings will be addressed by Mr. Modi, Mr. Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Mr. Nadda. Meetings of these clusters, starting from those for party workers to the general public, will start from January 15. Big meetings of new voters will be held from January 24. Organised by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), these will number in thousands across the country," said a source.

Aggressive communication on social media, as has been seen recently even from Mr. Modi's own handles on X, has been advised. The BJP runs hundreds of call centres across the country for its outreach to beneficiaries of the Modi government's welfare programmes and the BJP's ideological projects, and the two-day meeting saw a detailed discussion on the processes being applied in these call centres.

The end of the Winter Session of Parliament, the last proper "working" session of both Houses before the Lok Sabha election, has been a signal to the BJP to start poll preparations. The two-day meeting, and the many hours the leadership of the BJP spent over Friday and Saturday, shows that organisational suppleness was a prime concern.

Opposition parties in Gujarat slam liquor decision

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government's move to allow liquor consumption on GIFT City premises has triggered strong reactions from the Opposition Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as the parties have called the decision a step towards backdoor removal of prohibition in the State.

On Friday, the State government announced a new policy in a radical departure of its stringent dry law to allow alcohol consumption at hotels, restaurants and clubs offering "wine and dine" within the International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) near the State capital Gandhinagar.

After the decision, the principal Opposition party Congress and the AAP deemed it an unfortunate move that could harm the youth and affect the law and order situation in Gujarat where prohibition has been in place from the time it was carved out as a separate State in 1960.

"The BJP government wants to remove prohibition in the State and they have started it with GIFT City. Tomorrow, they will say they want to remove liquor ban at the Statue of Unity area in south Gujarat and Tent City of Dhordo in Kutch to attract tourists as well as the Surat Diamond Bourse," Leader of Opposition Amit Chavda said.

"This will ruin the youth while affecting the law and order situation in the State. The State is considered safe for women thanks to ban in alcohol consumption," he added.

INBRIEF

Deaflympics gold medallist to return the Padma Shri

Deaflympics gold medallist Virender Singh Yadav has now decided to return his Padma Shri to the government, showing solidarity with the country's top wrestlers who have objected to the election of Sanjay Singh, an aide of BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, as president of the Wrestling Federation of India. Throwing his weight behind Olympic bronze medallist grappler Sakshi Malik, Mr. Virender said he would return the honour as a mark of protest. PTI

Cong.'s new National Alliance Committee holds first meet

The recently formed National Alliance Committee (NAC) of the Congress held its first meeting here on Saturday, convener of the committee Mukul Wasnik said. The committee will now hold meetings with State leaders to decide on seat sharing, Mr. Wasnik said. The Congress on Tuesday announced a five-member NAC comprising senior leaders to negotiate with INDIA bloc allies for seat sharing for the 2024 parliamentary polls. The announcement was made after a meeting of the INDIA coalition. PTI

BJP leader claims JD(U) will merge with RJD soon

Senior BJP leader from Bihar and Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Saturday claimed that the ruling Janata Dal (United) would soon be merged with coalition partner Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) which was promptly denied by RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his younger son Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav. When asked about seat-sharing arrangements between INDIA bloc for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections by January 2024, Mr. Singh said: "The question of seat sharing doesn't arise when JD(U) will merge with RJD."

Chhattisgarh CM meets Narendra Modi in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and other Union Ministers in Delhi on Saturday. Mr. Sai apprised the Prime Minister of the various steps being taken by his government to fulfil the promises made during the election.

Mr. Sai said that funds received from the Centre would enhance the State government's financial backing for social welfare and infrastructure development initiatives.

Mr. Sai added that the pending bonus for two years of over ₹3,716 crore would be disbursed to farmers on December 25, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Priyanka no longer U.P. in-charge; Sachin Pilot to handle Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is now a Congress general secretary "without any assignment portfolio", while Sachin Pilot will be the general secretary in charge of Chhattisgarh. The changes were made in a major organisational reshuffle that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge carried out on Saturday.

Ms. Vadra was in charge of Uttar Pradesh earlier.

The much-awaited reshuffle displays a sense of urgency in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election and comes just two days after a meeting of the Congress Working Committee, the party's highest decision-making body.

During Thursday's meeting, senior members such as Mukul Wasnik raised the issue of long-pending organisational restructuring. Though Mr. Kharge reconstituted the CWC on August 20, responsibilities were not reassigned for four months.

Roles refreshed: The much awaited reshuffle displays a sense of urgency in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. PTI

In the reshuffle, new faces have been brought in and organisational responsibilities have been reassigned among the veterans.

However, K.C. Venugopal will continue as the general secretary (organisation), while Jairam Ramesh will remain as the head of party's communication.

Precursor to election

Senior leader Avinash Pande has been given the charge of Uttar Pradesh, replacing Ms. Vadra. Her designation as a general secretary without portfolio has given rise to speculation that she could take the electoral plunge in the 2024 poll as she will not restricted to handling any particular State.

Kumari Selja, who has been replaced by Mr. Pilot, will now handle Uttarakhand, while Deepa Dasmunshi has been appointed the general secretary of Kerala and Lakshadweep with additional charge of Telangana.

Senior leader Ramesh Chennithala has been made in-charge of Maharashtra, Mohan Prakash will look after Bihar, Ajoy Kumar will handle Odisha in addition to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, and Mr. Wasnik will be the general secretary in charge of Gujarat.

Milind Deora and Vijay Inder Singla have been appointed joint treasurers who will work with treasurer Ajay Maken.

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, 2945646)
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/40/2023 Date : 23.12.2023

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of following categories of drugs / supplies for the year 2024-25.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of Items
1.	KMSCL/ED/I&II/RC/2023/020 dtd. 23.12.2023	Drugs	412
2.	KMSCL/ED/III-VIII/RC/2023/021 dtd. 23.12.2023	Consumables & Surgical items	161
3.	KMSCL/ED/SPL/RC/2023/022 dtd. 23.12.2023	Specialty Drugs	152

Schedule of dates

	Date	Time
Pre-Tender meeting (online platform)	27.12.2023	11.00 am. onwards
Last date of online uploading of tenders	09.01.2024	05.00pm.
Date of technical bid opening	12.01.2024	11.00 am. onwards

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
STORM WATER DRAIN DEPARTMENT

S.W.D.C.No.B3/5919/2023 *E-Tender are invited for the following works in two cover as per details furnished below.*

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Package Value of Work (with GST 18%) Lakhs	E.M.D. Rs.	Eligible Class
1	S.W.D.C.No.B3/5919/13/2023, Construction of Integrated Storm Water Drain Works in M1 & M2 components in Kovalam Basin in expanded areas in Greater Chennai Corporation Covering various streets of Zone-12, 14 &15 under KfW Fund. Package - 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21	Rs.7422.10 Lakhs to Rs.9110.01 Lakhs	1 % of work value	Class-I

1. Tender last date and time of submission **30.01.2024 upto 3.00 pm.** 2. Bid document will be available from **26.12.2023 at 6.00** pm in website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** 3. Tender opening date and time **30.01.2024 at 3.30 pm.** 4. Pre Bid meeting date and time **10.01.2024 at 3.00 pm.** 5. FIN-2 is a complete set of bill of quantities available on the online portal and FIN-1 will be uploaded with FIN-2 Please make sure not to submit any financial bid data with the technical proposal.

DIPR / 6801 / Tender / 2023 **Superintending Engineer /SWDD**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
DEO IRRIGATION PROJECT,
AT/PO : KARANJIA, DIST:- MAYURBHANJ.
Mail-Id- cce.dip.dowr@gmail.com

No.2201 /CCEDIP, Dt.22.12.2023

Corrigendum No.01 to Bid Identification No.: 07/CCEDIP of 2023-24

Name of Work :- "Construction of Khairibhandan Barrage Project including afflux bund at Anlabeni, Jashipur block of District Mayurbhanj"

Sl. No.		As per Notice Inviting Tender		Modified / Read as (due to Typographical error)
1	2	Estimated Cost	Rs.19852.12 Lakhs	Rs.11490.40 Lakhs
	3	Bid security/ E.M.D.	Rs.1,98,52,200/-	Rs.1,14,90,400.00
	4	Period of Completion	30 (Thirty) Calendar Months	30 (Thirty) Calendar Months
	5	Class of Contractor	"Super" Class Contractor	"Super" Class Contractor
	6	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	26.12.2023 at 10:00 Hours	05.01.2024 at 10:00 Hours
	7	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	24.01.2024 up to 17:00 Hours	03.02.2024 up to 17:00 Hours
	8	Date & time For Pre-Bid Conference	09.01.2024 at 11:30 Hours in the O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia, Dist-Mayurbhanj in physical/ virtual mode through Google Meet. The interested bidder should ask for link by giving their email id to cce.dip.dowr@gmail.com (Joining time in Google Meet 11:30 Hours to 12:00 Hours)	19.01.2024 at 11:30 Hours in the O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia, Dist-Mayurbhanj in physical/ virtual mode through Google Meet. The interested bidder should ask for link by giving their email id to cce.dip.dowr@gmail.com (Joining time in Google Meet 11:30 Hours to 12:00 Hours)
	9	Date of opening of bid	25.01.2024 at 11:00 Hours onwards.	05.02.2024 at 11:00 Hours onwards.
	10	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia, Dist: Mayurbhanj, Odisha.	Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia, Dist: Mayurbhanj, Odisha.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".

Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website.

Chief Construction Engineer,
Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia

A-: OIPR-32337/11/0013/2324

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE (DoE&CC),
Ground Floor, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 015

File No: 2921/M/2022 Date: 21/12/2023

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Department of Environment & Climate Change invites digitally signed tender through the e-procurement portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfil the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial bid) system for the works as detailed below:

"Construction of Civil, Interior & Allied Works for the 9th Floor of CMRL Metro Building at Nandanam, Anna Salai"

For NIT: https://www.environment.tn.gov.in/
For downloading Bid Documents:
https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/6790/TENDER/2023 **Director, DoE&CC**

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
(A Statutory Authority of Government of India under Architects Act, 1972)
India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
website: www.nata.in, www.coa.gov.in

EXAMINATION NOTICE: NATA-2024
Subject:- Announcement of NATA-2024 for admission into 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. degree Program.

The Council of Architecture is pleased to announce that National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) 2024 shall be conducted by the Council on all Saturdays and Sundays starting from April to July, 2024 in two sessions, subject to availability of number of candidates registered for the session.

The NATA-2024 Brochure containing details of eligibility criteria for appearing in NATA, syllabus and registration process along with other important details is available on the websites www.nata.in and www.coa.gov.in.

The registration for NATA 2024 would commence from 01.02.2024. Candidates desirous to take admission into 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. degree Program at CoA approved architectural institutions during 2024-2025 are required to pass an aptitude test in Architecture.

New Delhi
Dated : 23.12.2023 Registrar

INBRIEF

A few people angry at India's cultural legacy: Dhankhar

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said a small section of people in the country had no respect for its 5,000-year-old cultural legacy, and asked those who take pride in it to retaliate against such forces. Some misguided people cannot swallow the progress it has made in recent years, he said at a programme held at Gurukul Kangri University in Haridwar. "It is a matter of concern that a section of people, who are not many, have no respect for India's 5,000-year-old culture or its glorious past. They have a scornful attitude towards it and keep tarnishing the country's image. They are either misled or misguided. They deserve to be retaliated against by people who take pride in our own culture and roots," he said. PTI

Karti Chidambaram appears before ED in PMLA case

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram appeared before the Enforcement Directorate in New Delhi on Saturday in a money laundering case linked to the issuance of visas to some Chinese nationals in 2011, official sources said. The ED case pertains to the allegations of ₹50 lakh being paid as kickbacks to Mr. Karti and his close associate S. Bhaskararaman by a top executive of the Vedanta group company Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd, according to the CBI FIR. The ED case stems from the CBI complaint. The agency will record the statement of the 52-year-old MP from Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu under provisions of the PMLA. PTI

Murmu witnesses Army's exercise in Pokhran

President Droupadi Murmu witnessed a firepower exercise involving various weapons platforms in Pokhran, the Army said on Saturday. In an interaction, the President commended them for maintaining the highest standards of operational preparedness. She also exhorted the personnel to continue serving the nation with the "same zeal, commitment and motivation". "President Droupadi Murmu visited Pokhran and witnessed a firepower exercise," the Army said on 'X'. "The President also interacted with the soldiers of the Army and commended them for maintaining the highest standards of operational preparedness and exhorted them to continue serving the nation with the same zeal," it said. PTI

Vivek Bindra booked for assaulting his wife in Noida

A case has been filed against entrepreneur and motivational speaker Vivek Bindra for allegedly assaulting his wife, the Noida police said on Saturday. According to an officer, a complaint was lodged on December 14 by Mr. Bindra's wife, Yanika, and his brother-in-law Vaibhav Kwatra, about the incident which allegedly took place on December 7. The officer said that the couple had got married on December 6. No response was issued by Mr. Bindra about the allegations. A case has been registered under IPC Sections 323 (causing hurt), 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt), 427 (mischief) and 504 (insult to provoke breach of peace), the police said.

SUDOKU

					1		4	9
1	5					8		
		3			4		5	
7					9	2		
	4		2		8		6	
		1	6					5
	2		4			6		
		5					9	8
4	8		9					

No.SS6017 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	5	1	3	9	7	8	6	2
7	6	2	8	1	4	3	9	5
3	9	8	2	5	6	4	1	7
8	3	4	5	6	1	2	7	9
1	2	6	7	3	9	5	4	8
9	7	5	4	8	2	6	3	1
5	1	3	6	7	8	9	2	4
2	8	9	1	4	3	7	5	6
6	4	7	9	2	5	1	8	3

Cash transfers help Bengal women take financial decisions, says study

But issues such as child marriage, domestic violence require special attention, says the Pratichi Trust study; it says 85.55% of women say they decide on spending the money; the State gives ₹1,000 to women from SC/ST group and ₹500 to others

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A study by Amartya Sen's Pratichi Trust on *Lakshmir Bhandar*, one of the flagship schemes of the West Bengal government, points out that the cash incentives have increased the women beneficiary's ability to make financial decisions and position in the family, but larger issues of child marriage and domestic violence require special attention.

"From the gender perspective, although issues of security, dignity, and freedom of choice for women are being addressed to a certain extent through *Lakshmir Bhandar*, larger background realities like child marriage, and domestic violence still need special attention," the report by Pratichi Trust said.

The study published recently pointed out that 85.55% of women report that they decide how to spend the money themselves, followed by joint decision-making with their husbands at 10.76%.

Another interesting figure that the study points out is that the majority of the respondents report that their position in their family is enhanced due to Lakshmir Bhandar (Yes=61.07%, No=38.93%). The picture across social groups is also mostly equitable (though the perception of STs might demand more probing).

Women empowerment: A tableau showcasing the features of the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme during the Republic Day celebration in Kolkata in 2023. DEBASISH BHADURI

Lakshmir Bhandar, a flagship programme to provide financial assistance to women from economically weaker sections of society in the 25-60 age group, provides ₹1,000 every month to women from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households and ₹500 a month for other categories. The scheme was announced by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in February 2021 during the the Assembly election campaign. The West Bengal government annually spends over ₹15,000 crore on the scheme and the number of beneficiaries has increased to about 2 crore.

The study published recently points out that from the "policy point of view, it is important to ensure that there is conversation and awareness regarding the conflicting realities of domestic violence, child marriage and gender-based discrimination on the one hand and the benefits or freedom that accrue to women as a result of direct cash transfer programmes on the other".

Child marriage an issue

Despite schemes such as Lakshmir Bhandar and Kanyashree (scheme providing cash incentives for school-going girls) child marriage continues to be a challenge for the policy makers in West Bengal.

In its report, the researchers of the Pratichi Trust have pointed out that Lakshmir Bhandar has presented before women of "modest background considerable promises for making a difference to their quotidian lives". The study emphasised that entitlement, however, small but regular and steady has a multiplier effect on the lives of the beneficiaries.

"How 'small' an amount is may not be measured only in terms of its quantity, but also with respect to its qualitative potential. One indication of this far-reaching potential of the scheme that we have gleaned from the grassroots is that some of the recipients talk about their entitlements to both welfare and workfare," the publication added.

Sabir Ahamed, national research coordinator of Pratichi Trust, who has been part of the study said that recommendations on the study include that women from similar economically deprived backgrounds particularly those from the OBC category and Muslims be treated at par with SC/ST category as far as the cash entitlement is concerned.

Mr. Ahamed also added that there should be an attempt to enhance ST participation in the scheme.

"Primary survey shows that the enrolment of STs in this scheme is still low in comparison to the proportion of their population. Concerted efforts need to be taken to augment their participation. *Duare Sarkar* outreach programmes may be arranged in tribal settlements to address the issue of their spatial isolation," the study points out.

The trust set up by Mr. Sen has held studies and come up with reports on *Duare Sarkar* (an outreach programme of the West Bengal government) and the grievance redressal cell of the State government.

Tea Board issues order to growers on pesticide use

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Tea Board has asked tea estates and small tea growers across India to avoid using on their plantations chemicals or pesticides that have no label claim.

Rajnigandha Seal Naskar, the Tea Board's Controller of Licensing, issued a directive on December 21 advising the growers against the use of 20 banned insecticides specified by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

These insecticides do not carry any label informing users whether or not they are suitable for tea bushes. "The presence of such banned insecticides or any other chemicals having no label claim for tea shall be viewed seriously by Tea Board, as deemed fit, for further action," the directive said.

The Board also urged all tea producers' associations and small tea growers' associations to sensitise their members accordingly. The Confederation of Indian Small Tea Growers' Associations has sought extensive awareness campaigns among the small tea farmers, who contribute 55% to the national tea production.

Associations of larger tea producers, however, said the Tea Board should have conducted research for suitable alternatives before taking action.

Season of joy

All lit up: A view of a decorated crib at St. Joseph Church ahead of Christmas in Guwahati on Friday. ANI

Hitting bull's-eye with anti-airgun initiative in Arunachal Pradesh

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

How do you stop people from hunting? By advising them to hunt.

In March 2021, Arunachal Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Mama Natung made an impromptu announcement in the 60-member State Assembly that he would wean people away from hunting "rare animals and birds getting rarer by the day".

For a second, he thought he had made a mistake. Stopping people from hunting – a tradition for many among the 140 tribes and sub-tribes across the 83,743-sq. km State with about 80% forest cover – was easier said than done.

"My mind said it was impossible but my heart said otherwise. Then and there in the House, I decided to launch an airgun surrender programme from my village Lamdang [near Seppa, the headquarters of East Kameng district] because charity begins at home," Mr. Natung told *The Hindu*.

He knew asking people not to hunt would be counter-productive. He advised them to maintain the tradition, but in the old style – with bows and arrows or any other weapon their forefathers used.

"With a bow and arrow, a hunter can at most kill six birds and animals in a year. But an airgun makes him hunt 200 or more animals in a day, and that needed to stop because we have been losing our fauna, many not found anywhere else on earth," he said.

The 'reverse sermon' worked. On March 17, about a week after his announcement in the Assembly, villagers of Lamdang gave up 46 airguns. The Airgun Surrender Abhiyan, recognised at the UNESCO's International Conference on Biosphere Reserves in Malaysia in November this year, took off. Almost 21 months later, a total of 2,467 airguns have been handed over to the State's Forest Department.

An airgun surrender ceremony being held in Arunachal Pradesh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nine double-barrel shotguns and 0.22 rifles, and 13 power chainsaws – a sought-after tool for felling – have also been surrendered.

"I know it is just the tip of the iceberg. There are many, many more airguns and other firearms still in the possession of people across Arunachal Pradesh, but at least we have made a start," Mr. Natung said.

Winged farmers

The anti-airgun movement entailed travel for the Minister and Forest officials. During several such tours, villagers were apprehensive about not having enough "good food" to eat if they gave up bushmeat.

"I kept telling them their fears were unfounded because alternative meats are available in the markets these days, even in far-flung areas, thanks to the Pema Khandu government's push for poultry, piggery, and other farm initiatives," he said.

Kinnow farmers in distress as prices plunge on higher output, poor demand

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Poor demand, abundant production, and early plucking of the produce this winter have left growers of kinnow, a citrus mandarin fruit in Punjab, grappling for a fair price for their season's harvest.

Production of kinnow, a hybrid between king (*Citrus nobilis*) and willo leaf (*Citrus deliciosa*) mandarins, is likely to see a jump from last year's 12 lakh tonnes to 13.5 lt this season in Punjab, a major producer of kinnow in India.

Growers in the State are worried over the drop in kinnow price in the ongoing season from last year's. At the same time, officials are optimistic of kinnows fetching a better price in the coming days following a dip in temperature in the region, which can enhance the quality of the fruit.

Sour note: Though farmers are worried over the drop in kinnow price, officials feel it will look up in the coming days. FILE PHOTO

At Abohar in Fazilka district, a key kinnow-producing region in Punjab, Sudhir Bishnoi of Bishanpura village is anxious as he fears substantial loss this season. "We are getting significantly lower prices for the fruit compared with last year's. There is almost a 50% drop in the price for the grower. I have so far sold half of my produce between ₹7 and ₹8 a kg while last year it fetched around ₹15 to ₹16," Mr. Bishnoi, who owns an orchard spread over four acres, told *The Hindu*.

"Interestingly, while we are getting lower prices for the produce, the fruit is being sold in the retail market for almost the same price as last year, which is around ₹32-₹35 per kg. This indicates that middlemen are reaping the profit while growers and the consumers are suffering," he said. He demanded that when kinnow prices fall drastically, as they have this year, the State purchase the produce from the grower.

"If the government is serious about promoting crop diversification in the State, then a mechanism for assured price and purchase of the produce has to be put in place," he said.

In Punjab, harvesting of kinnow usually begins in December and continues till February. According to State government data, the total area under kinnow in Punjab is around 47,000 hectares this season.

ANKARA

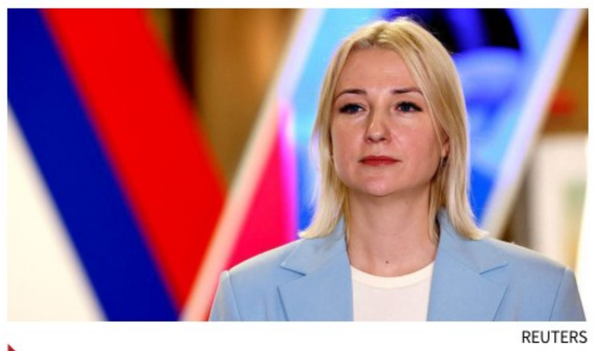
Twelve Turkish soldiers killed in attack on military bases in Iraq

AP

Twelve Turkish soldiers have been killed over two days in separate attacks on bases in Iraq. Turkey has operated several dozen military posts in northern Iraq for the past 25 years in its decades-old war against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a group blacklisted by Turkey and many of its Western allies as a terrorist organisation. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia bars pro-peace candidate from contesting presidential vote



REUTERS

Russia's Central Electoral Commission rejected an application by Yekaterina Duntsova, a former journalist and city councillor, who called for peace to stand in next year's presidential elections. The members of the body unanimously rejected Duntsova's bid to stand in polls that President Vladimir Putin is expected to win. AFP

FREETOWN

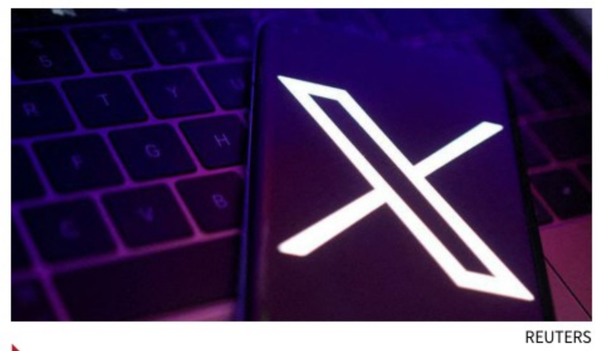
ECOWAS delegation in Sierra Leone after 'coup' attempt

AFP

A West African delegation is in Sierra Leone to lay the groundwork for a "security mission" after an alleged coup attempt. The Summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) launched the delegation to "facilitate the deployment of a security mission to Sierra Leone to help stabilise the country". AFP

SAN FRANCISCO

U.S. court rules Twitter breached contract over failure to pay bonus



REUTERS

A U.S. federal court ruled that Twitter, now branded X, violated contracts by failing to pay annual performance bonuses to its workers. The court threw out Twitter's attempts to have the case dismissed, ruling that the breach of contract by a former employer under California law was valid. AFP

Israel strikes Gaza after UN calls for more aid but stops short of ceasefire

Khan Younis is one of the cities that continues to be attacked; United Nations criticises the way Israel has conducted its offensive by creating massive obstacles to aid distribution; a new evacuation order by Army is set to impact 1,50,000 people

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Palestinians wept and prayed for their dead on Saturday after fresh Israeli strikes followed a UN Security Council resolution that demanded more aid be allowed into Gaza but did not call for an immediate halt to fighting.

Clouds of grey and black smoke rose over Khan Younis city in the south after strikes in the morning, and live AFPTV images showed black smoke drifting over the territory's north.

The Health Ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip reported 18 persons killed in a strike on a house at the central Nuseirat refugee camp, and said other targets were hit up and down the Gaza Strip.

Breaking point: Palestinian children wait to collect food in a refugee camp in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday. AFP

The bombardments came after the Security Council approved a resolution demanding "immediate, safe and unhindered" deliveries of life-saving aid be rushed to Gaza "at scale".

It also called for creation of "conditions for a sustainable cessation of hostilities," but did not seek an immediate end to combat.

Members had wrangled for days over the wording.

At Washington's insistence, they toned down some provisions and avoided calling for a ceasefire that would stop the war.

It is still unclear what, if any, impact the vote will have on the ground where Gazans have been forced into crowded shelters or tents.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said a "humanitarian ceasefire" is the only way for aid "to be effectively delivered".

The issue is not the number of aid trucks, he said, but "the way Israel is conducting this offensive is creating massive obstacles" to aid distribution.

Immediately after the UN vote, Israel again vowed to fight on until Hamas is "eliminated" and hostages are freed.

"Israel will continue the war in Gaza," said Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, insisting it was legal and just.

On Friday thousands fled central Gaza after an Army evacuation order. It warned residents of Bureij, a refugee camp established about 70 years ago, to move "for their own security" towards Deir al-Balah city further south.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said the latest evacuation order would affect more than 1,50,000 people.

Iran threatens to shut down Mediterranean Sea if there is no let-up in Gaza attacks

Reuters

An Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander said the Mediterranean Sea could be closed if the U.S. and its allies continued to commit "crimes" in Gaza, Iranian media reported on Saturday, without explaining how that would happen.

Iran backs Hamas against Israel and it accuses the U.S. of backing what it calls Israeli crimes in Gaza.

"They shall soon await the closure of the Mediterranean Sea, (the Strait of) Gibraltar and other waterways," Tasnim quoted Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi, coordinating commander of the Guards, as saying.

New warfront: A Houthi fighter stands on the Galaxy Leader cargo ship in the Red Sea. REUTERS

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group has over the past month attacked merchant vessels sailing through the Red Sea in retaliation for Israel's assault on Gaza, leading some shipping companies to switch routes.

The White House on Friday said Iran was "deeply involved" in planning operations against commercial vessels in the Red Sea.

Iran has no direct access to the Mediterranean itself and it was not clear how the Guards could attempt to close it off, although Naqdi talked of "the birth of new powers of resistance and the closure of other waterways".

Ukraine says it shot down three Russian Su-34 fighters

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Ukraine's military said it has shot down three Russian fighter-bombers in the south of the country.

Air force commander Mykola Oleshchuk said the Su-34 jets were downed around noon on Friday.

In his nightly address on Friday, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked the soldiers who shot down the Russian fighters in the Kherson region.

Mr. Zelenskyy also said he spoke with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on delivery of F-16 jets to Ukraine.

Yemen's warring factions have agreed to implement a new ceasefire, says UN

Agence France-Presse
DUBAI

Iran-led Houthis took control of capital Sanaa, prompting Saudi to support the Yemen's government

Yemen's warring parties have committed to a new ceasefire and agreed to engage in a UN-led peace process to end the war, the UN envoy for Yemen said Saturday.

The announcement by UN special envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, marks the latest step to end the deadly nine-year war that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

It follows recent meetings by Grundberg in Saudi Arabia and Oman with Rashad Al-Alimi, head of Yemen's Saudi-backed presidential council and Mohammed Abdul Salam, the chief negotiator of the Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

Mr. Grundberg said he "welcomes the parties' commitment to a set of measures to implement a nation-wide ceasefire... and (to) engage in preparations for the resumption of an inclusive political process" according to a statement.

Yemen has been gripped by conflict since the Iran-backed Houthi rebels took control of the capital Sanaa in 2014, triggering a Saudi-led military intervention in support of the beleaguered government the following year.

A UN-brokered ceasefire that took effect in April 2022 brought a sharp reduction in hostilities. The truce expired in October last year, though fighting largely remains on hold.

'Change' is the motto for this rising Indonesian presidential candidate

Agence France-Presse
SERANG

As one of Indonesia's leading presidential candidates is driven away from a campaign stop, locals surround his car, screaming his name and jostling to kiss his hand through the window.

Anies Baswedan, a former Governor of the capital Jakarta, is in a three-way battle ahead of February's vote to lead the world's third largest democracy and fourth most populous nation, with polls showing him rising toward a spot in a potential second-round run-off.

The 54-year-old says that he is the candidate for change.

Anies Baswedan

He has sought to paint himself as an alternative to the other two candidates, frontrunner and current Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto, and Ganjar Pranowo, who has the backing of incumbent President Joko Widodo's party.

Both have promised to largely carry on the current administration's policies.

"We offer a change. We offer the concept of equality in policymaking," Mr. Baswedan said.

"More and more people realise that we need change."

Fair policies

That includes strengthening the country's corruption eradication commission and distributing wealth more fairly, Mr. Baswedan has pledged.

His campaign slogan – "fair, prosperous Indonesia for all" – promises economic development felt by everyone, not just the Indonesian elite, he said.

Achieving that goal would take a "commitment for good governance, starting from the top leader," he said.

On foreign policy, he chided Mr. Widodo for never attending the United Nations General Assembly in person, promising that he would represent Indonesia at the annual gathering of world leaders.

That message appears to be catching on with voters, with Mr. Baswedan – an independent candidate backed by three political parties – rising in recent polls as Mr. Pranowo's numbers have fallen.

The former university rector is now closing in on Mr. Pranowo, 55, for the second run-off spot to challenge Mr. Subianto, 72.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/8859/2022_5_1_1/1, KIIFB-2017-18-WRD-025-26 DRINKING WATER PROJECT IN ETTUMANOOR MUNICIPALITY IN KOTTAYAM DISTRICT PACKAGE -1 - 22 MLD WTP and allied works, **EMD** : Rs.500000/-, **Tender fee** : Rs. 16540+(2978)GST, **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 15-01-2024 03:00:pm, **Phone** : 0481 2562745
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kottayam
KWA-JB-GL-6-1877-2023-24

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : SE/PHC/MPM/246 to 256/2023-24, Retender Notice-Malappuram -District-Various Works in Jal Jeevan Mission under various panchayaths and KIIFB:WRD004-02-WSS Kondotty Municipality–S/L of Distribution Network to various Zones, CWGMs & OHSR's., **EMD** : Rs. 200000 to 500000, **Tender fee:** Rs. 11025 to 16540, **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 10-01-2024 03:00:pm, **Phone:** 0483-2974871
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Malappuram
KWA-JB-GL-6-1878-2023-24

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Chief Engineer, (SCM),Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E-Tender ID: **2023_KSEB_633933_1,** PAC - **Rs.2,05,19,14,369/-,**
Last date: **06.01.2024 06.00pm**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Transmission Division, Malappuram
E-Tender ID: **2023_KSEB_632859_1,** PAC - **Rs.1,20,00,000/-**
Last date: **15.01.2024 04.00pm**
Office of the Chief Engineer, Transmission (South), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E-Tender ID: **2023_KSEB_635121_1, PAC:Rs.1,53,26,784/-,**
Last date:**15.01.2024 04.00pm**
Office of the Head-Consultancy Wing,Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
Consultancy Wing, KSEBL invites RFP for consultant to PMU for Kerala Maritime Board. **E-Tender ID:**2023_KSEB_631407
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
(Ref: PR /MC1 /E443/ E- Tender /2023)

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT INDORE
PRESS NOTICE
Request for Proposal (E-Tendering) vide NIT No. IIMI/Project/15/2023/150 File No 497
APPOINTMENT OF EPC CONTRACTOR
Online bids are invited from the eligible firms/agency/enterprise for appointment of EPC Contractor for Construction of Group VIII Projects comprising of multistorey hostel blocks, academic building, faculty offices & apartments and other associated Infrastructure at IIM Indore.
Last date & time of submission of bid through e-tendering is **16th January, 2024, up to 03:00 P.M.**
The Bid forms and other details can be seen and downloaded from e-procurement portal namely CPP having URL- https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app OR from IIM Indore website: http://www.iimidr.ac.in
sd/-
Director

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)
(Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112
Phone: 044 – 27472113, 27472423. Mobile: 9444314716.
Toll Free No: 18004250345. Kiran Mental Health Helpline No: 1800-599-0019
www.niepmd.tn.nic.in Email: niepmd@gmail.com, asponiepmd@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Tender for Hiring various services for "Divya Kala Shakthi Event"
NIEPMD invites Sealed tenders in two bid system (Technical and Financial) through Speed Post / Courier or Person drop in Tender Box at NIEPMD 3rd floor for Hiring of the following services for **"Divya Kala Shakthi Event" held at Bengaluru.**

S.No.	Services
01	Decoration, Physical arrangement and Other Services
02	Accommodation with evening snacks and Dinner
03	Food Services
04	Transport Services
Last Date for receipt of Tenders	**26.12.2023 (15:30 Hrs)**
Date of Tender Opening	**26.12.2023 (16:00 Hrs)**

The tender document can be downloaded from website **https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app** and from website **www.niepmd.tn.nic.in** and submitted through Speed Post / Courier or Person drop in Tender Box only.
Sd/-
DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS AND TEXTILES
Corrigendum to Tender Advertisement Issue by the TSHWCS LTD., (TSCO), Hyderabad.
In the Pre-bid Meeting held on dt.23.12.2023 certain Modifications have been suggested to be incorporated in the Tender Form and accordingly: **1.** Modified tender Form have been uploaded in the web site: **www.tscofabrics.com 2.** This has to be taken for filing of tenders and the tender form uploaded on 17.12.2023 stands null and void.
DIPR R.O.No.8967-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24 Dt. 22.12.2023 Sd/- O/o V.C. & Managing Director

KERALA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (KSWMP)
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Loan No./Credit No./Grant No.: IBRD-P4960;
REQUEST FOR BID
For Remediation of Legacy Dumpsites
Project Director, Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP) under LSGD, is notifying a **Request for Bid (RFB)** No: IN-SUCM-394361-CW-RFB for the **"Biomining and Bioremediation of 12 Legacy Waste Dumpsites across Kerala"** on Design - Build basis.
The RFB, including the **"Employer's Requirements"**, is available at **www.kswmp.org** and **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.** Interested must submit their Proposals through electronic-procurement portal of Government of Kerala **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** by **16.00 hours on Friday, January 19, 2024.**
Project Director, Upper Ground Floor, Trans Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram -695014, Kerala, India, Telephone: 0471-2333011,
E-Mail: tenderkswmp@gmail.com, Website: www.kswmp.org
December 20, 2023. **(D3/255/2023/I&PRD)**

No. A.12026/7/2023-Estt.IV
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
Narmada Control Authority (NCA) is a Body Corporate set up by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6A of the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956, for the purpose of securing compliance with the implementation of the decision and direction of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal. The Narmada Control Authority has its headquarter at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
2. Applications are invited from eligible and suitable officers for filling up one post of Member (Civil) in Nannada Control Authority, Indore in the Pay Matrix Level-14 (Rs. 144200 - 218200/-) on deputation (including short-term contract) basis.
3. **The last date for receipt of applications for appointment on deputation (including short-term contract) basis to the post of Member (Civil) in Narmada Control Authority,** earlier published in the Employment News on 5-11 August, 2023, 30 Sept-06 October, 2023 and 18th-24th November, 2023 is hereby **further extended up to 16.01.2024.**
4. Details of the post, eligibility conditions etc. are available at **mowr.gov.in; dopt.gov.in** and **nca.gov.in.** Applications **(in triplicate)** complete in all respects of suitable and eligible officers and who can be spared immediately in the event of selection may be sent through proper channel to: The Under Secretary (Estt.IV), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Room No. 428, Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110 001 and by email at **use4-mowr@nic.in** & **soe4-mowr@gov.in.**
5. **Advance copies of application or application received after the prescribed period or not accompanied with the requisite information/documents are liable to be rejected.**
(Narayanan Bhattadiri K.P.)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Like sheep and goats, reindeer too sleep while chewing their cud

The Hindu Bureau

Researchers have discovered that the more time reindeer spend ruminating, the less time they spend in non-rapid eye movement (non-REM) sleep. EEG recordings revealed that reindeer's brainwaves during rumination resemble the brain waves present during non-REM sleep, and these brainwave patterns suggest that the reindeer are more "rested" after ruminating. The researchers speculate that this multitasking might help reindeer get enough sleep during the summer months, when food is abundant and reindeer feed almost 24/7. The results were published on December 22 in the journal *Current Biology*.

Light-dark cycles are absent in the Arctic during winter and summer, and previous studies showed that Arctic-dwelling reindeer don't display circadian behavioural rhythms during these seasons, though they tend to be more active during the daytime during the spring and autumn equinox, when light-dark cycles are present.

They found that reindeer slept approximately the same amount during winter, summer, and autumn, despite the fact that they were much more active during the summer. This is in contrast to other species that change the amount they sleep in response to environmental conditions.

One possible strategy is the opportunity for rest during rumination – the re-chewing of partially digested food, which is an important component of digestion for reindeer and other ruminants. Domestic sheep, goats, cattle, and lesser mouse-deer have all been previously observed to produce sleep-like brain waves during rumination, but it was unclear whether rumination could serve a similar restorative function to sleep.

The reindeer's EEG readings during rumination resembled brainwave patterns that are indicative of non-REM sleep including increased slow-wave activity and sleep spindles. Sleeping and ruminating reindeer also displayed similar behaviour, tending to quietly sit or stand during both activities, and were less reactive to disturbances such as a neighbouring reindeer sitting down or getting up.

Next, the researchers tested whether rumination could reduce the reindeer's drive to sleep by depriving the reindeer of sleep for two hours. Following sleep deprivation, the reindeer's EEG readings indicated a build-up of 'sleep pressure'– the unconscious biological drive for more and deeper sleep – suggesting that reindeer experience deeper sleep following sleep deprivation.

Predicting extreme rainfall using probabilistic forecasts

Numerical weather prediction models cannot make a quantitative prediction for extreme rainfall, like the December 18 event in southern Tamil Nadu

Madhavan Nair Rajeevan

Historic: Southern districts of Tamil Nadu experienced unprecedented rainfall on Dec. 17 and Dec. 18

While Tamil Nadu was recovering from the devastation caused by the tropical cyclone Michaung, another catastrophic event occurred on December 18, this time over the southernmost parts of the State. The southern districts of Tamil Nadu – Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and Kanyakumari – experienced unprecedented and extremely heavy rainfall on December 17 and December 18. At least nine rain gauge stations in these districts reported heavy rainfall of more than 50 cm. The Kayalpattinam station in Thoothukudi recorded 95 cm of rainfall in just 24 hours. In terms of probability, this event could be termed as a once in a hundred-year event. These heavy rains led to massive and widespread flooding, caused extensive damage, and claimed a few lives. The heavy downpour was reminiscent of the heavy rains (94.4 cm) in Mumbai on July 26, 2005, in terms of the quantum of rainfall.

The cause

The 2023 northeast monsoon was in an active phase during this episode, characterised by the presence of an east-west trough (or ITCZ). The unprecedented heavy rainfall on December 18 was associated with an easterly wave with an embedded cyclonic circulation that moved from the southwestern Bay of Bengal across southern Tamil Nadu and Kerala into the southeastern Arabian Sea between December 16 and December 19. There was a large-scale, intense convergence of winds with the influx of abundant moisture into the region. Most of the recent rains fell in the early morning hours of December 18, supported by the climatological diurnal pattern over the region. The north-south running hills along the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border are also likely to have contributed to the dynamics of the heavy rains.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had predicted extreme rainfall (more than 20 cm of rainfall in 24 hours) for December 18 about 48 hours in advance and issued a red level warning.

But rainfall of more than 50 cm was not expected at all. Compared to a tropical cyclone, this weather system was weaker. A review of the available numerical weather prediction (NWP) model forecasts showed that no model could predict the intensity of this heavy rainfall event. The models only predicted heavy rainfall in the order of 20-25 cm in 24 hours. However, the numerical weather prediction models cannot make a quantitative prediction for this kind of outlier – 95 cm of rainfall.

For the prediction of extremes, a probabilistic approach is generally used extensively to calculate the probability of such extreme events occurring in each region. These probabilistic forecasts can be generated using an ensemble approach, where we generate a larger number of forecasts (30-40 forecasts) with perturbed initial conditions. The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune has developed such a prediction system for making probabilistic forecasts. This ensemble forecasting system was able to suggest the high probability of occurrence of extreme rainfall events in southern Tamil Nadu almost three days in advance. But the prediction did not indicate 95 cm rainfall in Thoothukudi. We should make more use of these probabilistic forecasts for extreme events instead of relying on quantitative predictions. Probabilistic forecasts provide more lead time, which can be used for better preparation. End users should be trained to use probabilistic methods for proper mitigation of such extreme events. The fact that this event is a hundred-year event does not mean that it can happen only after 100 years. It could happen next year too. The IPCC models indicate that extreme precipitation events may occur more frequently as global warming progresses. Heavy rainfall of this magnitude due to a relatively weak weather system should worry us.

Multifaceted approach

In the face of increasing extreme rainfall events, we must take a multifaceted and proactive approach to mitigate the impact and strengthen the resilience of our communities. To meet the challenge of climate change, a comprehensive strategy that includes robust early warning systems, sustainable urban planning, ecosystem conservation, global climate action and community engagement is essential to effectively mitigate the impacts of increasing extreme precipitation events. The robust early warning system is very vital, but it is only one component of this comprehensive strategy. More research is required for a better understanding of the physical processes of these extreme events. Public awareness and education also play a crucial role in building resilience. Communities should be educated about the risks associated with extreme precipitation events and receive information on how to prepare and respond effectively. Taking proactive measures today will contribute to a more resilient and sustainable future for generations to come.

(*Madhavan Nair Rajeevan was a former Secretary to the Government of India and presently the Vice Chancellor, Atria University, Bengaluru. Views expressed are personal*)

Infection of the eye, and how to protect vision

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE
D. Balasubramanian

Globally, about 135 million people have low vision. The World Health Organization (WHO) says that 80% of this visual loss can be prevented or cured. Hence WHO has joined hands with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) for a programme called VISION 2020: The Right to Sight.

In India, 13 lakhs are born blind, and 76 lakhs are suffering from easily treatable methods. By setting up 'vision centres' in rural areas and towns, by setting up well-equipped ophthalmic hospitals with able ophthalmologists, these sufferers can have the Right to Sight. Indeed, this is happening across the country. In addition, some globally recognised 'State of the Art' eye institutions are actively working on Vision 2020, and it appears achievable – Pashyantu Sarvejanah, or 'so that all may see'.

The L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Hyderabad, where I work, sees on average about 1,200 patients daily, and about 100 of them are infected in the eye with bacteria, fungi or viruses.

My colleague, Dr Savitri Sharma, had earlier reviewed such infections in India. He is recognised as the global expert on what is known as the ocular microbiome.

Main barrier: Microbes in a healthy ocular microbiome prevent invasion by harmful pathogens.

What is a microbiome?

A genome is the entire set of DNA instructions found in a cell. In humans, the genome consists of 23 pairs of chromosomes located in a cell's nucleus. A biome refers to the species that are present in a location. In our case, the ocular microbiome refers to the bacteria, fungi and viruses that are present in the eye.

The microbes in a healthy ocular microbiome act like a barrier, preventing invasion by harmful pathogens.

The ocular microbiome is also significantly different in the conjunctiva (the thin, clear membrane that protects the eye) and the cornea (the outermost clear layer that helps in focusing and refraction of the eye) of patients with infectious diseases such as fungal keratitis when compared to healthy eye microbiomes.

In 2005, India had a population of 115 crores, and today it is 140 crores. Despite this increase, many eye care centres in rural India, more ophthalmologists in towns and cities, and eye research institutions in cities across the country have helped make India a votary of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight.

However, the prevailing levels of air pollution, due to very high amounts of dust all over the country, have made many people suffer from 'pink eye' (conjunctivitis), itching and swelling of the eye, and blurry vision (when the lens is affected), or sensitivity to bright light.

How does one cope with it? The Cleveland Clinic in the U.S. has suggested several methods for this – use damp, warm or cool kerchiefs to make your eyes feel better; wear protective eyeglasses (spectacles); if you wear contact lenses, clear them; contact your eye doctor and have him/her prescribe appropriate lotions or pills.

I thank Dr Shivaji for his advice and collaboration.

SNAPSHOTS

Polar bear fur-inspired fibres offer thermal insulation

Inspired by the structure of polar bear fur, researchers present a knittable aerogel fibre with exceptional thermal and mechanical properties. The fibers are washable, dyeable, durable, and well-suited to be used in advanced textiles. This allowed the researchers to test them in a sweater that demonstrated impressive thermal insulation, among other features. Aerogels are an ideal material for thermal insulation. Encapsulated aerogel fibre has excellent thermal insulation while also being mechanically robust.

Octopus DNA reveals West Antarctic Ice Sheet collapse

Genetic analyses of an Antarctic octopus show that the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) collapsed during the Last Interglacial about 1,29,000 to 1,16,000 years ago when temperatures were only about 1 degree C warmer than preindustrial levels. The findings suggest that WAIS collapse and resultant sea-level rise could be caused by even the minimal temperature rises. Total WAIS collapse would have devastating global ramifications – it could raise the global sea level by roughly 3 to 5 meters.

Mice liver plays a role in how vaccines help clear bacteria

In surprising findings, researchers show that the liver may act as the main site for immunity from vaccines against bacteria that invade the blood, according to experiments in mice that tested a broad range of bacterial vaccines. The results contradict previous assumptions about how vaccines help clear out bacterial pathogens. In mice, the researchers uncovered that bacterial vaccines help clear out invasive bacteria from the blood through a "capture-and-kill" process.

Question Corner

Sleep regularity

Is there a link between very irregular sleep and a higher risk of dementia?

People who have very irregular sleep patterns may have a higher risk of dementia than those who have more regular sleep patterns, according to a new study (*Neurology*). The study does not prove that sleep irregularity causes dementia. It only shows an association. Researchers found links between sleep regularity scores and the risk of dementia. The risk of dementia was highest for people who had the most irregular sleep. After adjusting for age, sex and genetic risk of Alzheimer's disease, researchers found that those with the most irregular sleep were 53% more likely to develop dementia than people in the middle group. For people with the most regular sleep, researchers found they did not have a lower risk of developing dementia than people in the middle group. "Based on our findings, people with irregular sleep may only need to improve their sleep regularity to average levels, compared to very high levels, to prevent dementia," Dr. Matthew Paul Pase from Monash said in a release.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

FAQ

How is the U.K. cracking down on immigration?

What are the new visa regulations? How will it impact students, workers and dependents?

Narayan Lakshman

The story so far:

The government of the U.K. recently proposed new immigration rules to cut the net flow of immigration to the country, primarily by tightening visa requirements across several categories of workers seeking to move to the U.K. from abroad. Immigration policy has always been a key policy plank for the government headed by the Conservative Party, and there has been concern that in recent years the number of those immigrating to the U.K. compared to those emigrating abroad has risen sharply.

Why is the United Kingdom tweaking its immigration rules?

According to the U.K.'s Office for National Statistics (ONS), net migration into the U.K. touched a record high of 7,45,000 in 2022, with reports suggesting that the number of work permits issued to foreign technology professionals in particular rose from 39,899 in 2021 to 52,686 in 2022, marking a five-year high. Specifically, it was the category of web design and development that saw the largest percentage increase with 76% more work permits issued during this period. Of the 11,80,000 people who entered the U.K. during the year ending June 2023, with the intention to stay for at least one year, the greatest majority of migrants – 9,68,000 – came from outside the EU.

> The nations that sent the most migrants to the U.K. from outside of the EU were India, which sent 253,000 people, Nigeria (141,000), China (89,000), Pakistan (55,000) and Ukraine (35,000)

According to the ONS, students comprised the largest cohort of non-EU migrants, both in 2023 and 2022. However, the proportion of workers arriving to take on roles in healthcare, to make up for the severe staff shortage in the NHS and social care, have also been rising steadily. The nations that sent the most migrants to the U.K. from outside of the EU were, in order, India (which sent 2,53,000 people), Nigeria (1,41,000), China (89,000), Pakistan (55,000) and Ukraine (35,000). Of these individuals, a total of 39% entered the U.K. for the purpose of pursuing studies, 33% to work, and 9% for humanitarian reasons, according to the ONS.

U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's office has said that migration was "far too high" and putting "unsustainable pressure on communities and councils", a sentiment echoed by Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, who said that "shockingly high" inward migration was a sign of the "failure not just of immigration, but also of asylum and of the economy".

What are the proposed new regulations?

The new visa regulations propose to clamp down on the dependents of students arriving in the U.K. as well as other categories of foreign nationals with family ties in the country.

Skilled workers seeking visas will be impacted by an increase in the minimum salary requirement. At the moment this salary requirement is the highest, of either £26,200 per year or £10.75 per hour or whatever is defined as the "going rate" for the job in question. From early 2024, this is expected to rise to £38,700 per year. Health and social care workers, who comprise nearly 50% of work visa migrants, will reportedly be exempt from the increase, suggesting that the maximum impact will be on middle-skilled jobs including those working in the hospitality industry. Families of U.K. citizens too could be impacted – an aspect of the changes that has provoked the sharpest protests. For example, the minimum income necessary for U.K. citizens seeking to bring over a family member who is a foreign citizen will rise from £18,600 to £38,700 a year – and such a move would have impacted approximately 70,000 people who sought such visas during the year ending June 2023.

Other changes include a ban on immigrant care workers bringing family members with them, a review of student visas for graduates to prevent "abuse" of the system including a ban on students switching to work visas before completing their studies, and an increase in the immigration health surcharge paid to the NHS by annual fee visa holders, from £624 to £1,035.

What is the broader impact of the proposed changes?

Following a sharp backlash from immigration advocacy groups, the U.K. government has already walked back its proposal to raise minimum salary requirements for U.K. citizens to bring in non-U.K. family members, reducing the threshold amount from £38,700 to £29,000, "with further increases at unspecified dates thereafter." Meanwhile, acting on fears that the new rules could lead to family separations across the border, advocacy groups such as Reunite Families, are said to be exploring legal avenues to challenge the proposed new immigration rules which amount to being "punished for falling in love".

Will new telecom Bill streamline the sector?

How does the government plan to consolidate the law for wireless networks and Internet service providers? Has the licensing procedure been eased for telecom operators? What are industry players saying? What are the concerns raised by digital rights groups?

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

The Telecommunications Bill, 2023, was passed in Parliament this week. When it receives the assent of the President, the Bill will replace three archaic laws such as the Telegraph Act of 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1933 and The Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950. It aims to consolidate the law for wireless networks and Internet service providers, and simplify the process of application for licences and permits for telecom operators.

What is the Telecommunications Bill, 2023?

The Bill governs authorisation of telecommunication networks and services, provides for auctioning as well as administrative allocation of spectrum, defines the mechanism for exercising the right of way for laying telecom infrastructure such as cables in public as well as private property. It also spells out emergency measures the government can take in the interest of national security and public safety such as intercept messages, suspend telecommunication services as well as take temporary possession of any telecommunication service or network. The Bill also states that rules will be framed to protect consumers with the setting up of a 'Do Not Disturb' register to ensure they don't receive a specified class of messages without prior consent.

The Bill governs a whole host of services, including over-the-top services such as WhatsApp, Telegram and email services like Gmail through a broad definition for 'telecommunication' which is given as "transmission, emission or reception of any messages, by wire, radio, optical or other electro-magnetic systems, whether or not such messages have been subjected to rearrangement, computation or other processes by any means in the course of their transmission, emission or reception." This vast definition entails that every internet app within India has to comply with the law. The Bill also marks a shift from a licensing regime to an authorisation regime, where all telecommunication services in India "shall obtain an authorisation from the Central Government, subject to such terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed." Anyone who offers a service without authorisation will face an imprisonment of up to three years, or a fine of up to ₹2 crore.

> 'Interception of messages will enable indiscriminate surveillance and weaken online safety'

GETTY IMAGES

The Bill allows the government to assign spectrum for telecommunication through auction except for entities listed in the First Schedule for which assignment will be done by administrative process. The First Schedule includes entities engaged in national security, defence, law enforcement and crime prevention, public broadcasting services, disaster management, promoting scientific research and exploration, as well as Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellites such as Space X, and Bharti Airtel-backed OneWeb, which had been pushing for administrative allocation.

What are the concerns over the Bill?

According to critics, the new Telecommunications Bill, 2023, is draconian and provides a legal architecture for mass surveillance and internet shutdowns. Among its several contentious clauses is the requirement that all users have to be identified through the use of "verifiable biometric based identification as may be prescribed" by telecommunication service providers. Further, it requires that no user shall furnish any false particulars or suppress material information. This could impede whistle-blowers as well as journalists who operate under anonymity. If users fail to comply, they will be charged a hefty penalty from ₹25,000 to ₹1,00,000 for some provisions.

Most of the contentious provisions are contained in Chapter IV, which grants emergency powers to the Central government in the interest of public safety and national security. Section 19 (f) empowers the Central government to notify "standards and conformity assessment measures" in respect of encryption and data processing in telecommunication, which has raised eyebrows given that most internet communication is increasingly being pushed towards encryption to evade national state surveillance programmes. The government's interest in breaking up encryption of WhatsApp and Signal has to be seen in the backdrop of a controversy over Israeli company NSO Group's Pegasus spyware targeting 300 mobile phone numbers for illegal surveillance, including those of serving Ministers in the Narendra Modi government, Opposition leaders, lawyers, activists and journalists.

It also allows the Central or a State government during a public emergency, including disaster management, and in the interest of public safety to take "temporary possession of any telecommunication service or network". It can take over control and management of such services or networks. It can intercept messages on the pretext of "preventing incitement to the commission of any offence", and direct suspension of telecommunication services in such circumstances like the shutdown of Internet seen in Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir.

How has the industry received the Bill?

The Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) and the Cellular Operators' Association of India have welcomed the provisions in the Bill that bring uniformity across States in terms of 'right of way' rules and regulations, along with rates. These, they say, will also address long-standing issues for telecom infrastructure providers, including capping of charges, and deployment of telecom infrastructure on private property. The telecommunication network is not considered part of the property for transactions or tax purposes, and hence the Bill is also welcomed for providing relief to the infrastructure industry from the additional exorbitant tax burden.

The Indian Space Association has thanked the government for including satellite-based communication networks for allocation of spectrum by administrative method. It says that the move will "help spur growth in the nascent space sector... and also help drive innovation, create opportunities for start-ups, and strengthen the country's position in the global satellite market." But an international group of organisations and experts such as the Signal Foundation, the Internet Freedom Foundation and the Internet Press Institute have written to Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and underlined that interception of message will enable "indiscriminate surveillance" and weaken online safety. The groups say that the Bill creates uncertainties around the ability of service providers to offer strong encryption, and develop privacy-respecting innovations.

The authority to suspend the internet has been granted without dwelling over procedural safeguards recommended by the Supreme Court as well as the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology. The groups have, therefore, demanded that the Bill be withdrawn in its current form.

What's the latest blip in India-Maldives ties?

Why has the government of Mohamed Muizzu decided against renewing a hydrographic survey agreement with India? What are the implications, coming soon after a pledge to send back Indian troops stationed in the Indian Ocean archipelago?

Meera Srinivasan

The story so far:

Earlier this month, the Maldives Cabinet decided against renewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India for cooperation in hydrography. The agreement, which was signed in 2019, is due to expire in 2024. Coming soon after newly elected President Mohamed Muizzu's pledge to send back Indian troops currently stationed in the Indian Ocean archipelago, the move was yet another indication of his government's intention to reverse the former Ibrahim Mohamed Solih administration's 'India first' policy.

What is hydrography?

It is the science of studying oceans, seas, and other water bodies, by compiling and analysing data, maps, and charts. Branching off from applied sciences, it looks at measuring and describing the physical attributes of water bodies and predicting how they might change over time. While it is said to be undertaken primarily for safety of navigation, it also supports other activities, such as economic development, security and defence, scientific research, and environmental protection. Hydrographical measurements include tidal, current and wave information.

> Going by recent events, it appears as if New Delhi will have to brace for a challenging phase of its Male partnership

Tense relations: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the President of the Maldives Mohamed Muizzu during COP-28, in UAE, on December 1. PTI

What is India's expertise?

India has been an active member of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) since 1955. The Indian Naval Hydrographic Department (INHD) was established in 1874 in Kolkata. It is the nodal agency for hydrographic surveys and has a fleet of indigenously built modern survey ships. India partners with many countries in the Indian Ocean Region and African and East Asian countries such as Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania, Maldives, Mozambique, Vietnam, Myanmar, Kenya, and Sri Lanka. According to the INHD, its role has broadened over time, owing to the heightening global character of hydrography and "its growing potential as a force multiplier" in terms of maritime diplomacy. Personnel from 39 countries have trained at the National Institute of Hydrography, functioning under the INHD.

Why was the 2019 MoU significant?

The MoU was signed in June 2019, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the Maldives. It was Mr. Modi's second visit to the Maldives since he participated at President Solih's swearing-in ceremony in 2018. Months before the time the MoU was inked, President Solih and the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) had secured a landslide win in the general elections. The two Indian Ocean neighbours, and their leaders, backed by a decisive majority, committed to close cooperation in development, defence and maritime security. The first meeting of the Joint Commission on Hydrography was held in the Maldives in September 2019. Following the agreement, the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) and the Indian Navy have carried out three joint hydrographic surveys in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Why has the Cabinet decided against renewing the agreement?

While President Muizzu has not made a statement specifically on the MoU on the joint hydrographic survey, a senior official told Maldivian media that the decision was aligned to the current administration's pledge to terminate all agreements with foreign parties that are detrimental to or endanger the national security of the Maldives. "It is in the best interest of Maldivian sovereignty that this capacity is improved within our own military, entrusting them with the responsibilities of surveilling and policing our waters, and excluding the participation of any foreign party in such an endeavour," Under Secretary for Public Policy Mohamed Firzul told a media conference.

The message appeared to be in line with Mr. Muizzu's broad election campaign, pledging to remove Indian troops from the country and "restoring the Maldives's sovereignty". Once he assumed charge, the core demand of the 'India Out' campaign led by former President Abdulla Yameen, found mention in President Muizzu's first set of official announcements.

How has India responded?

In its first response yet to the Cabinet decision, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said India had a "proven track record" in the field. "Let me just say that India has a proven track record in the field of hydrography. And we have also been cooperating with many countries in the Indian Ocean region on hydrography and various elements related to that. The benefits to partner countries are visible, I would like to just leave it at that," spokesperson Arindam Bagchi told the weekly media conference.

What does this mean for India-Maldives ties?

Going by recent developments, it appears as if New Delhi will have to brace for a challenging phase of its Male partnership. Maldives is a member of the Colombo Security Conclave, an initiative aimed at enhancing Indian Ocean maritime security, that includes India, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius. However, earlier this month, the Maldives skipped the latest round of the Conclave's NSA-level meet held in Mauritius. Notably, it coincided with Maldivian Vice-President Hussain Mohamed Latheef's visit to China, to attend the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation, where he said the Maldives was "eager to explore novel avenues of collaboration and cooperation with China". The MEA's response to the termination of the Maldives's joint hydrographic initiative with India, pointed to New Delhi's belief that its neighbours should tap the "benefits" of India's expertise. How it will navigate the choppy waters connecting its southern neighbour will be closely watched.

The rebel who became the ruler

Sheikh Hasina

A former tough opposition leader who fought Ershad's military regime in the 1980s, the Awami League chief who is seeking to extend her rule for another five years is facing the heat as Opposition parties have threatened to boycott the elections citing government interference in the process

Kallol Bhattacherjee

On April 30, 1991, a cyclone hit the coastal Bangladesh with monstrous ferocity. Storm surges drove seawater deep inland. At the end of the nearly seven-hour-long cyclone, at least 1,40,000 people were left dead. Sheikh Hasina, then the leader of the principal opposition Awami League, reached the affected areas near Chittagong before the Government of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) could muster any response. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia should take moral responsibility for failing to provide timely assistance to the people and resign immediately, Ms. Hasina demanded. The images of Ms. Hasina walking on the devastated landmass of coastal Bangladesh drove her into the centre of a grieving nation. The BNP sensed a growing threat, and violent attacks targeted Ms. Hasina in the following months.

Earlier, on November 10, 1987, the police of military ruler Mohammed Ershad had targeted her, which killed three of her young colleagues from the student wing of the Awami League. Sensing that a deeply unpopular and confused military dictator was failing in governance, Ms. Hasina and Ms. Zia came together in 1987. The two were known to be opposed to each other. Yet, they formed an alliance, asking for genuine democracy. In the winter of 1990, the Hasina-Zia duo mobilised lakhs of people in Dhaka, shaking the foundations of Ershad's regime. Ershad responded by declaring emergency, but in the face of mounting pressure, he resigned on December 4. In the February 1991 election, the BNP came to power, and Ms. Hasina emerged as the main opposition leader. The cyclone of April that year gave Ms. Hasina the political rebirth that she wanted.

Long before the 1991 cyclone, the coastal part of the country was devastated in the winter of 1970 by cyclone 'Bhola'. For days, the government of Yahya Khan, sitting in a distant Islamabad, did not know the scale of the devastation. The apathy of the Yahya Khan government was matched by the brutality of Operation Searchlight that was launched by the Pakistani military to crush the democratic aspirations of the winner of general election – the Awami League, under Sheikh Mujib, her father. The Awami League, which took power after the birth of Bangladesh following the India-Pakistan war of 1971, represented the young and restless youth of East Pakistan.

When Mujib was assassinated on August 15, 1975, Ms. Hasina was in West Germany. She and her sister Rehana survived the massacre that wiped out their entire family, including their five-year-old brother Sheikh Russell. After the killings, Ms. Hasina took refuge in India for six years. This was the formative period of the future Prime Minister. In this phase, Ms. Hasina struck a friendship with Congress leader Pranab Mukherjee and the Gandhis of India.

On May 17, 1981, Ms. Hasina returned to Bangladesh. By then, the Awami League had elected her in absentia as its general secretary. The battle against the Ershad regime was tough and the battle against the Zia government was no less. Ms. Zia, widow of former military ruler Zia-ur Rahman who founded the BNP, tried to corner Ms. Hasina as attacks continued. But the Zia government could not recover from the blow of the cyclone and the BNP was defeated in the election of 1996, paving the way for the first term of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The rebel became the ruler.

Agreement with India

In 1997, Ms. Hasina concluded the 30-year Ganga Water Sharing Agreement with India that was to last till 2026. She also announced the plan for building the ambitious bridge across the Padma in this tenure. She reached out to the Chakmas in the Chittagong Hill Tract and concluded a peace treaty on December 2, 1997 with the Parbattyo Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti. Despite striking several right notes, Ms. Hasina lost the 2001 election that was held under a caretaker government, to a four-party alliance led by the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Party (Manju) and Islamic Oikyo Jote.

The BNP-led government became known subsequently for the alleged support that it provided to the

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

secessionist forces like the ULFA and other groups in India's Northeast. Rampant corruption and public protests crippled the country.

A new Caretaker Government came in January 2007 with support from the military, which imposed emergency and postponed the elections. During this time, Ms. Hasina was jailed on corruption charges which helped her gain public sympathy. The election held on December 29, 2008 returned her to power. This time, she returned to take advantage of her partnership with India and reached an in-principle agreement on Teesta water sharing and started negotiations and survey for the historic Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) with India.

In February 2013, the trial of Abdul Quader Mollah reignited the painful memories of the genocide committed during March-December 1971 under the supervision of the Pakistani military. The powerful Shahbag movement that started in February 2013 demanded death sentence for Mollah, who had earlier got a life sentence. In December that year, Mollah was hanged. Ms. Hasina returned to power in 2014 in an election that was boycotted by the BNP. Unfazed, Ms. Hasina next year sealed the LBA with India.

Continuing with the Shahbag spirit, her government kept up the heat on the collaborators in the genocide and hanged a number of leaders, including Motiur Rahman Nizami and Mir Quasem Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami in 2016. That year, extremism posed the toughest challenge to Hasina with the Islamic State attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery of Dhaka. She vowed to continue her campaign against terrorists which became synonymous with her rule. A tough fighter who had taken on a military dictator in the 1980s, she had by now become a grandmother and acquired a front rank as one of the longest ruling female leaders in the world.

Election controversy

There has been no indications from the party so far about who might succeed Ms. Hasina. Her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, an entrepreneur, and daughter Saima Wazed, have both hit the headlines. Ms. Saima recently became the South East Asia Regional Director of the World Health Organization, prompting criticism of nepotism. However, for the veteran leader, succession is not yet a priority. The coming election is already in international focus as the BNP has planned to boycott the polls once again. Ms. Hasina has maintained that there will not be the repeat of the past caretaker governments as that provision in the Constitution has been removed. The BNP, however, demands a "neutral government" before polling.

As global pressure mounts on her, Bangladesh is all set to hold the election on January 7. Ms. Hasina has sent emissaries abroad to invite observers and diplomats and promised a fair contest. Despite her assurances, around 14 parties, including the BNP, are boycotting the election. With the completed Padma bridge, and a series of new airports and roadways, Ms. Hasina showcases her achievements while seeking re-election, though there is economic stress and criticism of a widening crackdown on the opposition. It remains to be seen if Ms. Hasina, the former rebel, would be willing to test her popularity in the ring of a truly "free and fair election" and convince the opposition to join the race at the last moment.

THE GIST

- When Sheikh Mujib was assassinated on August 15, 1975, Hasina was in West Germany. Later, she took refuge in India for six years
- On May 17, 1981, Hasina returned to Bangladesh. By then, the Awami League had elected her in absentia as its General Secretary
- In 1990, she joined hands with her political rival Khaleda Zia to mobilise mass protests against Ershad's regime and eventually forced the dictator to resign
- In 1996, the Awami League defeated the BNP in general elections, paving the way for the first term of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

A strategic choke point

Bab el-Mandeb

Houthi attacks on tankers passing through the narrow Strait has disrupted one of the busiest global shipping lanes, dragging the U.S. deeper into the conflict

Stanly Johny

When the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7, many feared Hezbollah, the powerful Shia militia in Lebanon, would escalate the war by opening a second front. The Lebanese-Israeli border has remained tense since then with occasional flare-ups, but both Hezbollah and Israel have been careful not to trigger an all-out war. While Israel stayed focused on Gaza, with one of the most intense aerial and ground campaigns in recent history, hundreds of kilometres from Israel border, another non-state actor widened the conflict, turning the Red Sea into a battlefield.

Ansar Allah of Yemen, better known as the Houthis, after their late leaders Badr al-Din al-Houthi and Hussein al-Houthi, first declared war against Israel, in solidarity with the Palestinians. They fired drones and ballistic missiles towards Israel, all of them shot down either by U.S. war ships or Israeli defence missiles. In late November, the Houthis, who are directly backed by Iran, changed their tactics from targeting Israel to attacking commercial ships passing through the Red Sea. Initially they said they would attack only Israel-flagged ships, but later they said all ships would be targeted.

What makes Houthi actions a direct threat to global shipping is that they can target vessels passing through the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb, which links the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. There were 37 incidents involving tankers from November 19 to December 18, most of which were around Bab el-Mandeb, according to Ambrey Analytics, a risk management firm. The Houthi actions forced some of the world's top shipping companies, including Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd and MSC, to suspend trading on the Red Sea routes. Traffic through the Red Sea has dropped by some 35% in recent weeks, increasing shipping and insurance costs.

Bab el-Mandeb, which is just 29-km wide at its narrowest point, is a strategically important strait given its location. It separates the Arabian Peninsula from East Africa. The Red Sea opens into the Gulf of Aden, which joins the Arabian Sea and then the Indian Ocean, through Bab el-Mandeb. Throughout the 19th and until the mid-20th century, Britain offered protection to these shipping routes through its control of the island of Perim (Mayyum) in the Strait. In 1967, the island became part of South Yemen, and after Yemen's unification in 1990, it came under the control of Sana'a, the capital of the united country.

Houthi takeover

The Houthis, who captured Sana'a in 2015, came close to Bab el-Mandeb after their takeover of the port of Hodeidah, which is some 250 km north of the Strait. Now, the Houthis, who have drones, short range rockets and even ballistic missiles, mostly supplied by Iran, can target any vessel passing through the Strait.

The Houthi attacks have hit Israel badly as traffic through its southern port of Eilat in the Gulf of Aqaba has come to a halt. But more importantly, the attacks affect global trade, as roughly 12% of global seaborne trade go through the Strait. As Houthi attacks raised security concerns, shipping companies have rerouted traffic around Africa (the Cape of Good Hope). But if the distance from Singapore, a major Asian shipping hub, to Rotterdam, the largest seaport in Europe, is 8,301 nautical miles, the route around the Cape is 11,758 nautical miles. If a round trip through the Red Sea takes 34 days, the Cape route takes 43 days. So if the Red Sea traffic is disrupted for a longer period, it will enhance the inflationary pressure on the global economy.

The U.S. has formed a naval task force to counter the Houthi threat. But all Red Sea countries, including Egypt whose Suez revenue has taken a hit as traffic dropped, decided to stay out of it, which shows the Arab world's anger towards the Biden administration's unconditional support for Israel's bombing of Gaza. But the U.S. and its allies have pledged more naval resources to protect the shipping lanes. The U.S. also has not ruled out taking offensive measures, including bombing Houthi targets. But Houthis, who survived years of Saudi bombing, say they will continue to target tankers as long as Israel's war on Gaza continues.

Rising above the script

Vishnu Deo Sai

A tribal leader who cut his teeth in the RSS family, Sai has remained loyal to the party and avoided controversies throughout his political journey

Shubhomoy Sikdar

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

After finishing schooling, going to college was the next logical step for a young tribal man from the Jashpur region of the then undivided Madhya Pradesh in the 1980s, but Vishnu Deo Sai was forced to take over agricultural duties for his family instead. Now 59 years old, for Mr. Sai, this was one of many occasions where he had to abandon a set plan and take unexpected turns. However, each time, he managed to claw his way back in a journey whose latest pit stop is the Office of Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.

His erstwhile aides and party colleagues recall how Mr. Sai, who hails from a political family in Jashpur, a tribal-dominated district that shares borders with areas of Odisha and Jharkhand having similar demographics, started going to Vanvasi Kalyan Ashrams in his younger days. These Ashrams, now spread across the country, first came up in Jashpur with support from the RSS in 1952. Their prime objective was checking the growing influence of Christian missionaries among the tribes in the region.

He became a village council member in 1990, and the sarpanch of his native village Bagia shortly thereafter. Having displayed his organisational capabilities, Mr. Sai needed a mentor for his continued rise, and he found one in the late Dilip Singh Judev, a prominent member of the Jashpur royal family and a well-known anti-conversion crusader.

The palace, despite wielding considerable influence in Jashpur and the larger Surguja region, could not participate in electoral politics as most Assembly seats in the region and the Raigarh Lok Sabha seat are reserved for members of the ST community. The emergence of Mr. Sai, a tribal leader who had cut his teeth in the RSS family, thus suited the palace's politics. From Mr. Sai's perspective, it effectively meant that his rise from a Sarpanch to a BJP candidate in the Assembly polls of 1990 was swift.

"While my father was alive, he had made public statements about his wish to see Mr. Sai as a Chief Minister someday. Mr. Sai had worked among the tribals, displayed good organisational skills and was seen as a mild-mannered down to earth person," says Prabal Pratap Singh Judev, the son of Dilip Singh Judev, who passed away in 2013.

Yet, this has not been a journey without bumps, be it losing the first election in Chhattisgarh [2003], or being dropped as a sitting MP, or being replaced abruptly as the State president of the party. But his unflinching loyalty to the party and restrained responses to controversial issues have contributed to his rise.

External factor

Another contributing factor, and arguably one that overshadows any personal trait or skill, is external: Mr. Sai is a senior leader from the Surguja region. The BJP won all 14 seats in the northern tribal belt, a clear power-shifting factor. The Congress swept Surguja the last time and senior leaders from both the major parties hold the view that not rewarding T.S. Singh Deo, senior Congress leader and former Deputy CM "suitably", also led to the Congress's rout. The BJP has also done well in another tribal region in the State, Bastar, winning eight out of 12 seats. This performance has challenged the perception that tribals are a captive vote bank for the Congress in Central India.

As much as his tribal credentials and affable nature are being hailed, Mr. Sai is also perceived as someone who is less vocal when it comes to core and often contentious issues concerning tribal rights. Recently, when he was asked about issues such as opposition to mining in Hasdeo forests, or locals protesting against security camps in Bastar's Silger, he responded by not addressing the issue but citing the welfare and development works done by the BJP.

And despite having been a Union Minister of State in the past, Mr. Sai's administrative abilities will also be open to scrutiny as he and both his deputies – Arun Sao and Vijay Sharma – are first-time MLAs, and he is leading a Cabinet that has leaders who are senior to him. There is also the question of him coming out of the shadows of former CM and now Assembly Speaker, Raman Singh, whose imprint was visible on the candidate selection for the polls, and more recently, on the Cabinet expansion that took place on December 22.

INBRIEF

Domestic coal-based power output rises 8.38% in Apr.-Nov.

Domestic coal-based power generation climbed 8.38% to 779.1 Billion Units (BU) in April-November FY24 , as per an official statement. India's power output climbed 7.71% during the period, the Coal Ministry said. The overall coal-based power generation saw a year-on-year rise of 11.2% on account of an unprecedented rise in temperature, delayed monsoon in North India and resumption of full commercial activities post-COVID. PTI

SHF opens small business loans unit in Kancheepuram

Sundaram Home Finance (SHF) has opened an exclusive small business loans (SBL) branch at Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu and targets to disburse about ₹10 crore in the initial phase of its presence in this region. SBL branches will provide loans of up to ₹20 lakh against residential property to support business growth and working-capital requirements of small businesses in Kancheepuram and nearby locations, the company said in a statement.

I-T Dept notifies ITR forms 1, 4 for Assessment Year 2024-25

The Income Tax Department has notified ITR forms 1 and 4, which are filed by individuals and entities with annual total income up to ₹50 lakh, for assessment year (AY) 2024-25. Individuals, besides Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), firms having an income of up to ₹50 lakh and those having earnings from business and profession in the current fiscal (April 2023-March 2024) can start filing returns for the income earned in this financial year. PTI

India's $60 billion man-made textile sector reels from Chinese imports glut

Rising imports of MMF fabric and higher domestic prices of fibres are severely impacting local spinners, knitters, weavers and processors as they are unable to supply at competitive prices; the brunt of the impact has been on manufacturers, both for the domestic market and export-oriented units

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

For almost a year now, India's major textile hubs of Ludhiana, Surat, and Erode have been fighting an almost insurmountable challenge: rising imports, or arguably large-scale dumping, of man-made fibre (MMF) fabrics that is affecting a sector valued at about $60 billion.

Rajesh Bansal, a fabric processor in Ludhiana, took his friends from Nagpur recently to a retail outlet to buy fleece. "Of the six pieces shown to us, four were from China," he says.

"China dumps fabric and this creates problems," asserts Ashok Jirawala, president of the Federation of Gujarat Weavers Association. "We ran our weaving units to full capacity and now we have unsold stocks. So, we plan to cut production by 20%."

C. Jaganathan, who weaves fabrics in Erode, imports viscose yarn from China. "When the prices were ₹180 a kg for Indian yarn, I got it for ₹125 a kg from China. Only for the last one month Chinese prices are higher. The Chinese sellers are now offering the current price for a year," he observes.

In the last three years, MMF fabric imports, which attract mostly 20% duty, have doubled and most of it is knitted synthetic fabrics, contends R.K. Vij, secretary general of the Polyester Textile Apparel Industry Association.

According to data shared by Mr. Vij, in 2019-2020 (April to March), about 325 tonnes of fabric were imported every day from China at $4.61 a kg. The volume increased to 887 tonnes a day in the April-June quarter of this fiscal and the average value was about $2.90 a kg. Of this, value of knitted or crocheted dyed fabrics made of synthetic fibre was just $1.4 (about ₹118) a kg.

It is not just imports, but "under invoicing of imported finished fabrics that is a major issue," notes Mr. Vij. "The government should issue a notice to Customs, stopping clearance of fabrics that are priced below a certain value at the ports," he urges.

Rising import of MMF fabric and relatively higher domestic prices of MMF fibres are severely impacting local spinners, knitters, weavers and processors as they are unable to supply at competitive prices. This has hit both, the local and export manufacturers, and the downstream industry is said to be operating at only 70% capacity.

Quick trade estimates for November from the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) show that export of man-made yarn, fabrics, and made-ups were 7.33% lower year-on-year. For April-November, the decline was 23.2%.

Fraying finances: Buyers have reduced prices by ₹2-₹5 a metre in the last one year, says a loom owner in Palladam. THE HINDU

In 2017-18, fabrics dominated India's total MMF exports with 33% share, while yarn made up 32%, as per a study on the Ministry of Textiles website. India's share in global MMF trade was 2.7% in 2019.

"Indian textiles is predominantly cotton based," says a Tamil Nadu-based viscose products producer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We could not bring much innovation in MMF products. China, Thailand, Korea have been the innovators," he adds.

"We were out-priced on the raw material front for the last 15 years. We do small value additions. With the China + 1 strategy, there is a big push from western brands but we do not have the capabilities. China is the biggest player in MMF. It is desperate to sell its raw material at any cost as its customers are looking at other countries for sourcing it. China determines the international prices."

The viscose products producer says, given China's dominance, India's introduction of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) on MMF fibres is severely impacting the entire value chain.

The government has introduced QCOs on polyester raw materials, polyester fibre and yarn, and viscose fibre, making Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification mandatory for these products, even if they are imported.

'QCOs killing industry'

"The QCOs are killing the industry," says Rakesh Mehra, Chairman, CITI. "The government should have started with QCOs for garments. That is left open [for imports] and it has introduced QCOs for fibre. This has led to fibre prices going up. What should be of good quality is what touches the skin. But, that [garment and fabrics] is imported without any quality control. One has to do a deep study on the prices and imports. The industry is for QCOs and good quality, But, it should be introduced first at the garment stage," adds Mr. Mehra.

And, this is a view echoed by most of the MMF players that *The Hindu* spoke to.

Any textile mill that produces MMF yarn (polyester or viscose) should get the yarn tested for BIS standards. "How can a small-scale mill spend lakhs on testing," asks a small-scale textile mill owner, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It should not be mandatory at the yarn stage," he adds.

By extension, the QCOs on fibre imports is denying the market of high quality fabrics.

A viscose yarn producer says a garment exporter in Tiruppur showed a sample that he claimed was a branded speciality fabric. On closer examination, it turned out to be a blend of nylon and viscose. "No one really checks. The sellers are using brand names to push any type of blended fabric into the market," adds the yarn producer, who does not wish to be identified.

MSMEs on edge

Almost a year of declining orders and high prices have put MSME units' finances on edge.

"I weave rayon fabric and sell it to local traders who sell in the north Indian markets," says Aruchamy, a weaver in Palladam who operates automated looms. "The buyers have reduced the prices by ₹2 to ₹5 a metre in the last one year. For every three looms, there should be one worker. I now have one person to man five looms. A fitter asks for ₹30,000 a month as salary. I cannot afford it. This affects the quality of the fabric," he adds.

"I used to pay ₹4 lakh a month as electricity charges for the auto looms unit," says Mr. Jaganathan. "That has increased to ₹6 lakh now. Similarly, labour costs have shot up too. In Erode, auto loom units should pay almost ₹1,000 a day to a worker," he adds.

(This is the third of a four-part series. Full report at: https://bit.ly/48wGMsG)

Federal Reserve's rate cuts come into view as U.S. inflation retreats

Reuters

Federal Reserve policymakers are set to start the new year with fresh evidence that their 2022-2023 interest-rate increase campaign put U.S. price pressures firmly in retreat, with data on Friday showing that by some key measures inflation is now at or below their 2% goal.

Jerome Powell

Traders broke out the champagne after a government report showed the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index fell 0.1% in November from October, responding to the first decline on that measure since April 2020 by boosting bets not only that the Fed will begin reducing borrowing costs in March but will continue to cut them throughout the year. Futures contracts tied to the Fed's policy rate are now pricing an end-of-year benchmark rate in the 3.5%-3.75% range, 1.75 percentage points below the current level.

Early to rejoice?

Analysts caution that Fed policymakers themselves may not be quite as euphoric, noting that much of the decline in November came from falling goods prices that is unlikely to continue, at least at the same pace. Rent inflation is still running high, though it is forecast to recede in the coming months.

"There is some turbulence ahead in the Q1 inflation readings that I think Fed officials will want to get through before turning the focus squarely to rate cuts," wrote Inflation Insights' Omair Sharif.

"Fed officials will want to see a few reports with softer shelter data to gain confidence that they can move on to rate cuts."

Last week the Fed kept its policy rate in the 5.25%-5.50% range for a third straight month, and Fed Chair Jerome Powell signaled that with the rate-hike campaign that began in March 2022 likely over, policymakers would next turn to a debate over the timing of rate cuts.

Still, said KPMG Economics' Diane Swonk, "We see Fed officials as hesitant to ease rates so soon for fear of backtracking on the hard-won fight against inflation."

Schwing Stetter India eyes CY24 exports of ₹400 crore

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Concrete construction equipment manufacturer Schwing Stetter India plans to double its export turnover to ₹400 crore for the calendar year 2024 and achieve double-digit growth in the next few years, according to a top company official.

V. G. Sakthikumar

"We will be ending CY23 with 67% growth in exports to ₹200 crore and we are aiming to double them to ₹400 crore in the following year," Chairman and Managing Director V. G. Sakthikumar said.

According to him, the company had 'on-hand' export orders valued at ₹200 crore to be executed over the next six months.

The firm exports products to more than 50 countries. Currently, shipments account for 4% of the total turnover.

The company, meanwhile, is likely to end CY23 with a turnover of ₹5,353 crore, against ₹3,945 crore registered in the year earlier, with a year-on-year growth of 36%.

"While the industry grew by 15%, we grew by 2.5 times. In fact, most of the construction equipment manufacturers have now reached the pre-COVID peak sales volume of 2018, whereas, we are ahead of the curve and have been growing at brisk pace for the last three years," he said.

He attributed the growth to continued R&D investments, unwavering focus on long-term growth plans, portfolio expansion across key industries and markets, and the determination of employees to perform and grow.

Stating the firm was bullish on short- and long-term growth prospects for CY24, he said the company may not see the same kind of growth as it was an election year.

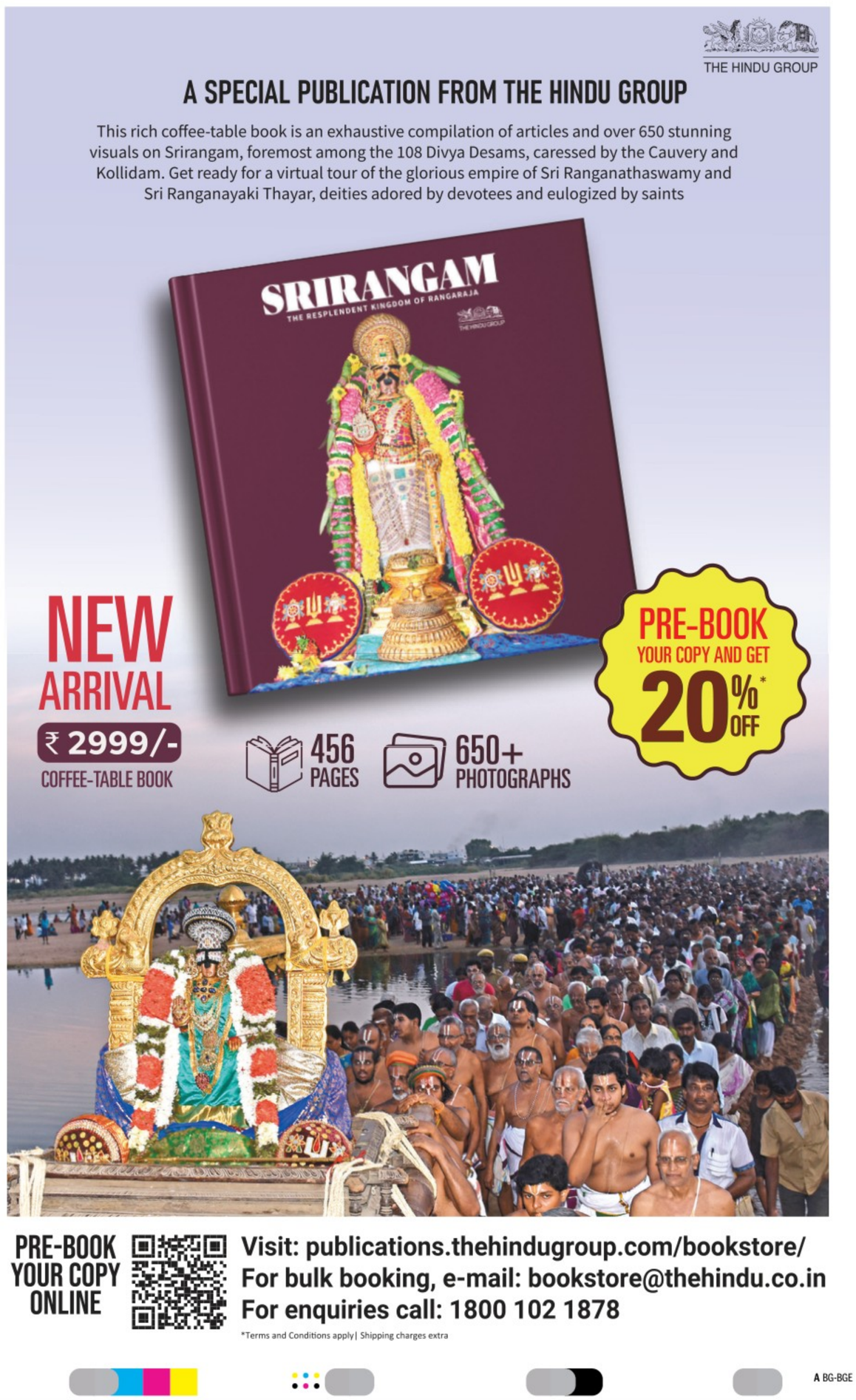
However, it would be compensated by exports.

Air India's first wide-body A350-900 lands in Delhi

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Air India's (AI) first wide-body A350-900 aircraft, sporting new brand livery, arrived here from Airbus's Toulouse facility in France.

The aircraft is the first of AI's 20 Airbus A350-900 on order, with five more scheduled for delivery through March 2024.



FULL OF DRAMA

The Healy incident, Harmanpreet's appeal and umpires' verdict

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Alyssa Healy sparked controversy when she deflected a throw from the bowler with her bat and the ball went to the boundary. The umpires signalled a four, forcing Harmanpreet Kaur to appeal. Since Healy had blocked the ball to prevent it from hitting her, the umpires deemed that she was not obstructing the field.

GREAT TEST

Perry heaps praise on the prolific McGrath for second fifty in match

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Australia's Ellyse Perry was all praise for her vice-captain Tahlia McGrath, whose 177-ball 73 briefly neutralised India's gains on day three of the Test. "I think she's having a pretty great Test match. She looked really tight especially during those drives and is fantastically solid on defence. She bowled well and tied down an end too."

ROPED IN

Abhimanyu replaces Ruturaj in India's Test squad for SA series

BISWARANJAN ROUT

Abhimanyu Easwaran has replaced the injured Ruturaj Gaikwad in the India Test squad for the two-match series against South Africa. He will, however, be available only for the second game as he is currently leading the India-A side. Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Avesh Khan and Rinku Singh have been added to the India-A squad.

HEART-STOPPER

Pink Panthers pull off a thrilling one-point win over Thalaivas

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jaipur Pink Panthers scored an exciting 25-24 win over Tamil Thalaivas in a Pro Kabaddi League match in Chennai on Saturday. The low-scoring game was defined by some solid defending by Pink Panthers' Sunil Kumar and Reza Mirbagheri. Gujarat Giants, powered by raider Rakesh's 14 points, defeated U.P. Yoddhas 38-30.

Harmanpreet leads fightback, sets up an exciting final day

In the final hour of the third day's play, when nothing seemed to be working, the India captain brings herself into the attack and scalps two quick wickets to break the visitors' momentum; Healy's Australia finishes at 233 for five, a slender lead of 46

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Her arms outstretched like wings, Harmanpreet Kaur sprinted towards her teammates as a few hundred spectators chanted her name at the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday.

It was the final hour of third day's play and the Indian captain brought herself into the attack in the 72nd over as nothing seemed to be working for her bowlers with Tahlia McGrath (73, 177b, 10x4) and Alyssa Healy (32, 101b, 1x4) consolidating Australia's innings.

There was a huge appeal on the first delivery, but the DRS confirmed that the ball was sliding down leg, giving McGrath a sigh of relief. However, three balls later, the Australian No. 4's efforts to defend led to the ball rolling onto the stumps. With that, Harmanpreet (2 for 23) not only broke the 66-run partnership, but also brought India back into the game. Late strikes led to Australia ending the day at 233 for five in its second innings, with a slender lead of 46 runs in the one-off Test.

Harmanpreet bowled nine overs at a stretch, and in between, sparks flew with India appealing for obstructing the field when Healy shielded herself from a Harmanpreet throw. The umpires ruled in the Australian captain's favour, even though she missed a sweep and was trapped in front by her Indian counterpart shortly after.

Golden arm: Harmanpreet broke Australia's resistance, sending back McGrath. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Those quick wickets broke the momentum for the touring team, which dominated the first two sessions.

Resuming on 376 for 7, India could add just 30 runs to its tally before being bundled out 35 minutes into the day. Though Pooja Vastrakar struck three fours early on, she fell three short of her maiden Test fifty as Australian bowlers Kim Garth and Annabel Sutherland executed the short-ball plan to perfection.

Deepti Sharma, too, failed to extend her stay and was cleaned up by Garth.

On a rather placid surface, Australian openers looked at ease before Richa Ghosh's direct throw found Beth Mooney well short of her crease, and soon, Phoebe Litchfield departed after misjudging the length of a Sneh Rana delivery.

Even though Australia looked in a spot of bother at 56 for 2, it turned things around in the second session and the Indian bowlers were made to toil. McGrath joined forces with Ellyse Perry and batted for 25 overs and forged a crucial 84-run stand for the third wicket. Making the most of a couple of reprieves, the pair looked strong before Rana removed Perry.

However, McGrath continued her dogged batting display, went past yet another fifty and built a solid partnership with captain Healy. The duo seemed to be in no hurry and made the most of a few lifelines to solidify the innings. They looked set to extend the lead before Harmanpreet helped India fight back.

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: 219 in 77.4 overs.

India — 1st innings: Shafali Varma lbw b Jonassen 40 *(59b, 8x4)*, Smriti Mandhana run out 74 *(106b, 12x4)*, Sneh Rana b Gardner 9 *(57b, 1x4)*, Richa Ghosh c Gardner b Garth 52 *(104b, 7x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Sutherland b Gardner 73 *(121b, 9x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur lbw b Gardner 0 *(2b)*, Yastika Bhatia lbw b Gardner 1 *(7b)*, Deepti Sharma b Garth 78 *(171b, 9x4)*, Pooja Vastrakar c Garth b Sutherland 47 *(126b, 7x4)*, Renuka Singh c Gardner b Sutherland 8 *(9b, 2x4)*, Rajeshwari Gayakwad (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-15, lb-5, nb-4): 24; Total (in 126.3 overs): 406.

Fall of wickets: 1-90 (Shafali, 16.4 overs), 2-140 (Sneh, 34.5), 3-147 (Smriti, 38.4), 4-260 (Richa, 69.5), 5-261 (Harmanpreet, 70.2), 6-265 (Yastika, 72.3), 7-274 (Jemimah, 78.4), 8-396 (Pooja, 122.6), 9-402 (Deepti, 125.5).

Australia bowling: Cheatle 9-3-23-0, Garth 14-2-58-2, Perry 4-0-31-0, Gardner 41-7-100-4, Jonassen 18-4-42-1, Sutherland 11.3-2-41-2, King 19-1-69-0, McGrath 10-2-22-0.

Australia — 2nd innings: Beth Mooney run out 33 *(37b, 7x4)*, Phoebe Litchfield b Sneh 18 *(44b, 2x4)*, Ellyse Perry c Yastika b Sneh 45 *(91b, 5x4)*, Tahlia McGrath b Harmanpreet 73 *(177b, 10x4)*, Alyssa Healy lbw b Harmanpreet 32 *(101b, 1x4)*, Annabel Sutherland (batting) 12 *(67b, 1x4)*, Ashleigh Gardner (batting) 7 *(23b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-10, lb-3): 13; Total (for five wkts. in 90 overs): 233.

Fall of wickets: 1-49 (Mooney, 11.5), 2-56 (Litchfield, 13.5), 3-140 (Perry, 42.4), 4-206 (McGrath, 71.5), 5-221 (Healy, 79.4).

India bowling: Renuka 8-3-22-0, Pooja 8-0-36-0, Sneh 17-3-54-2, Deepti 19-5-30-0, Rajeshwari 27-10-42-0, Jemimah 2-0-13-0, Harmanpreet 9-0-23-2.

Sai Sudharsan always looking to learn and improve, says Badani

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

Rising star Sai Sudharsan has had a stellar run in the last 12 months. He has won the TNPL, Deodhar Trophy, Irani Cup, and County Championship (playing for Surrey) this year. His batting exploits in the 50-over Vijay Hazare tournament helped Tamil Nadu make the knockouts, which culminated in his India call-up for the ODI series against South Africa.

In his debut against South Africa in the first ODI, he looked very comfortable facing a strong Proteas' bowling unit and scored a match-winning half-century in tough conditions.

Sai Sudharsan's journey has been quite remarkable since the time his name began doing the rounds in the 2021 TNPL season where he was the second best run-scorer with an impressive 358 from eight matches.

He scored five half-centuries at a strike-rate of over 140 for his team Lyca Kovai Kings.

Meteoric rise: Badani attributes Sai Sudharsan's stunning growth to his commitment and dedication. AP

Not come easy

Hemang Badani has known Sai Sudharsan since he was 12. "This meteoric rise has not come easy for Sai Sudharsan. It is his commitment, dedication, and sincerity towards the sport. He is always at the ground every single day for training and practice, looking to learn and improve," said Badani.

Badani shared an interesting incident that happened during the 2023 edition of the TNPL which will sum up the youngster's commitment and drive towards the game. "Lyca Kovai Kings played the opening match of the tournament in Coimbatore and Sai Sudharsan made 80 the previous night.

"As the coach I always go around the ground in the morning to check the pitch. At around 11 a.m., when I entered, I saw Sai Sudharsan running around the ground. I quietly saw the pitch and sat down to see what he was up to.

After he finished, I asked him why he was running after playing a long innings, to which Sai Sudharsan replied 'I want to prepare for the next match and for that I have to be mentally ready and this is like a recovery run'. Now that is commitment, which shows the boy's hunger and desire and that is why he is very special" said Badani.

FC Goa runs rampant, slots home four past hapless Mohun Bagan

ISL-10

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

FC Goa produced a fine display of attacking football to outclass defending champion Mohun Bagan SG 4-1 in an ISL-10 fixture at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Saturday. The masterly performance saw Goa consolidate its position at the top of the table with 23 points from nine matches.

Bagan suffered its second successive loss to remain on 19 points from nine outings.

Goa took control of the proceedings quite early and found the breakthrough in the 10th minute as winger Noah Sadaoui netted a penalty. With suspensions and injuries taking away more quite a few of its regulars, Bagan couldn't contain the visitors.

Early breakthrough: Noah, right, scores from the spot to put FC Goa in front in the 10th minute. PTI

Goa doubled the lead in the 42nd minute when Victor Rodriguez played a 1-2 with Carl McHugh inside the Bagan box, creating the opportunity and finding the target too.

Bagan's defence faltered again, this time in added minutes, allowing Noah the space inside the box. The American made no mistake, scoring with an angular shot.

Down 0-3, the Kolkata giant tried desperately to make a comeback. Its effort bore fruit as it pulled one back before the breather through Dimitri Petratos' free-kick.

In the second half, Bagan struggled again while Goa added another goal.

Substitute Carlos Martinez found the target from the spot to cap a memorable night for Goa.

The result:

Mohun Bagan 1 (Petratos 45+7) lost to FC Goa 4 (Sadaoui 10-pen & 45+3, Rodriguez 42, Martinez 90+1-pen).

Townsend paints the town red for Luton; West Ham stuns Man United

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
LONDON

Jarrod Bowen and Mohammed Kudus' second-half goals gave West Ham a 2-0 win over Manchester United in the Premier League's early game on Saturday.

Bowen bundled home from close range in the 72nd minute after a lovely one-two with Lucas Paqueta, who played in Kudus six minutes later to settle the game with a sharp finish.

In another game, Winger Andros Townsend netted his first goal for Luton Town as it beat his former club Newcastle United 1-0 at Kenilworth Road to make it three defeats in their last four Premier League games for the Magpies.

The first: Bowen broke the deadlock for West Ham. GETTY IMAGES

Townsend put his side in front in the 25th minute by heading home Ross Barkley's flick-on from a corner.

Tottenham Hotspur ended Everton's excellent League run with a typically entertaining, high risk-reward 2-1 home victory that capped its own impressive December and took it back into the top four.

Everton had won its previous four league games without conceding a goal but its former striker Richarlison breached that defensive wall with a neat finish after nine minutes and Son Heung-min bundled in the second nine minutes later.

The results:

Premier League: West Ham 2 (Bowen 72, Kudus 78) bt Manchester United 0; Fulham 0 lost to Burnley 2 (Odobert 47, Berge 66); Luton 1 (Townsend 25) bt Newcastle 0; Nottingham Forest 2 (Elanga 47, Wood 74) lost to AFC Bournemouth 3 (D. Solanke 51, 58, 90+ 4); Tottenham 2 (Richarlison 9, Son Heung-Min 18) bt Everton 1 (Gomes 82).

Serie A: Bologna 1 (Ferguson 86) bt Atalanta 0; Frosinone 1 (Baez 52) lost to Juventus 2 (Yildiz 12, Vlahovic 81); Torino 1 (Ilic 88) drew with Udinese 1 (Zarraga 81).

LaLiga: Atletico 1 (Llorente 46) bt Sevilla 0.

On Friday: Serie A: Empoli 0 lost to Lazio 2 (Guendouzi 9, Zaccagni 67); Monza 0 lost to Fiorentina 1 (Beltran 7); Sassuolo 1 (Pinamonti 28) lost to Genoa 2 (Gudmundsson 64-pen, Ekuban 87); Salernitana 2 (Fazio 42, Candreva 63) drew with AC Milan 2 (Tomori 17, Jovic 90).

Premier League: Aston Villa 1 (Zaniolo 90+7) drew with Sheffield United 1 (Archer 87).

INBRIEF

Man City downs Fluminense to clinch Club World Cup

Julian Alvarez scored the fastest-ever goal in a Club World Cup final as Manchester City thrashed Brazilian side Fluminense 4-0 on Friday to cap a remarkable year by capturing its fifth trophy of 2023. Pep Guardiola's team, which was missing injured striker Erling Haaland at the global tournament, had already captured the FA Cup, Premier League, Champions League and UEFA Super Cup this year. Guardiola stressed to his players this week about the importance of "closing the circle" on the team's trophies, and achieving a "once-in-a-lifetime" goal.

The result, final: Manchester City 4 (Alvarez 1, 88, Nino 27-og, Foden 72) bt Fluminense 0.
Third-place playoff: Urawa Reds 2 (Kante 43, Scholz 54-pen) bt Al Ahly 4 (Ibrahim 19, Tau 25, Koizumi 60-og, Maaloul 90+8).

Siddharth beats Habib; Manan downs Bhadresh

Former National champion Siddharth Rao of Tamil Nadu defeated former Asian Games gold medallist Rafath Habib (RSPB) 3-0 in the round-robin phase of the Masters Snooker National Championship in Chennai on Saturday. Defending champion Manan Chandra (PSPB) eased past Bhadresh Panchal (Guj) 3-1.

Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2: Juggernauts meets Warriors

Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 kicks off at Cuttack on Sunday with defending champion Odisha Juggernauts taking on Rajasthan Warriors in the first match. The other teams in the fray are Chennai Quick Guns, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Khiladis and last edition's runner-up Telugu Yoddhas. The league phase will witness 30 matches in 18 days, with each team facing the others twice. The top four will progress to the semifinals and the final is scheduled for Jan. 13.

Atharva and Tanishka triumph in State table tennis

Atharva Nawarange and Tanishka Kapil emerged the champions in the CVL Shastry Memorial State table tennis championships in Bengaluru.

The results, finals:
U-15: Boys: Atharva Nawarange bt N. Aarnav 11-9, 11-8, 11-9;
Girls: Tanishka Kapil bt Hiya Singh 11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 11-6.

Shah Rukh, Jagathishree win titles in 4-stroke 361-550cc

Notching four wins in as many starts, Shah Rukh Khan (Mantra Racing) and Jagathishree Kumaresan (One Racing) annexed the titles in the 4-Stroke 361-550cc and girls' (4S 165cc, Novice) categories, respectively, at the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship in Chennai, on Saturday. Meanwhile, Mohammed Arfath (2-Stroke 131-165cc Super Sport) and Mohammed Fazil (2S 165cc Super Sport India), and Madhan Kumar (2-Stroke up to 130cc Super Sport) also topped the championship in their respective categories.

LIVE TELECAST

India Women vs Australia Women: Only Test, day 4, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5.30 & 8 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m.
Ultimate Kho-Kho: Sony Ten Sports 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 8.45 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards.

Dhoni to resume training in the next few weeks: CSK CEO

The former India skipper underwent surgery on his left knee after leading Super Kings to a fifth title in the 2023 edition; Viswanathan feels the franchise pretty much got all players it targeted

IPL

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

I am back! Dhoni will start working in the nets soon. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Chennai Super Kings skipper M.S. Dhoni is set to resume training in the next few weeks as part of his preparation for the 2024 IPL, according to the franchise's CEO, K.S. Viswanathan.

The former India skipper underwent surgery on his left knee after leading the Super Kings to a fifth IPL title earlier this year. The 42-year-old was often seen sporting knee strapping during the 2023 edition and struggled a bit, especially while running between the wickets.

Giving an update about Dhoni's fitness, Viswanathan said, "He is doing well now. He has started his rehab and is working in the gym. And, probably in another 10 days, he will also start working in the nets."

"With the season set to start around March 22, we are planning for a camp in Chennai by the first week of March," the CEO added at the sidelines of the launch of the Junior Super Kings inter-school tournament on Saturday.

Earlier this week, the player auction for the 2024 season was held in Dubai, and the Super Kings added six players to their roster as they prepare to defend their title.

When asked whether the team got its preferred picks at the auction, Viswanathan said, "We pretty much got all our targets. We were planning for Daryl Mitchell. We thought Mustafizur Rahman would be a good bet at our Chepauk wicket, with the big side boundaries.

"These were our thoughts, but we were not sure whether we would be able to get them. Luckily, it was a good auction for us this time."

On the decision to spend ₹8.4 crore for uncapped batter Sameer Rizvi, Viswanathan said, "Sameer Rizvi was a targeted player for many of the franchises. We were probably a bit lucky in getting him. If you look at it, we were trying to get a replacement for Ambati Rayudu. We didn't have enough players with that kind of experience to bid for any of them. So, we thought it was better to go in for a youngster who has the promise."

For the future

"I am not saying this just because we have picked him, he will be the next best. But the opportunity is there for that. Last year, we got Shaik Rasheed, Nishant Sindhu and Rajvardhan Hangargekar. So, we are also trying to build the team for the future, which will help us in the longer run," he explained.

Bangladesh coasts to a historic win in final ODI against NZ

On fire: Shoriful's three for 22 included the scalp of top-scoring Young. AP

Agence France-Presse
NAPIER

Bangladesh's pace attack shredded New Zealand's batting on a green Napier pitch to record a historic nine-wicket win in the third and final one-day international on Saturday.

Having been well beaten in the first two matches to cede the series, Bangladesh produced a remarkable form reversal at McLean Park to dismiss the hosts for just 98 in 34.1 overs.

The run chase proved easy as captain Najmul Hossain Shanto scored an unbeaten half-century. Bangladesh coasted to 99 for one in 15.1 overs.

It was Bangladesh's first ODI win over the Black Caps on New Zealand soil, having lost the 18 previous fixtures.

Shanto's contribution began with him winning the toss and inserting the Black Caps on a green, bouncy surface which also offered sideways movement – and his seamers responded.

Three of them picked up three wickets as New Zealand was skittled for its lowest total in 45 ODIs between the teams.

Tanzim Hasan Sakib (three for 14) and Soumya Sarkar (three for 18) both bagged career-best figures while Shoriful Islam's three for 22 included the scalp of top-scoring Will Young, caught in the gully for 26.

The scores: New Zealand 98 in 31.4 overs (Will Young 26, Tanzim Hasan Sakib 3/14, Soumya Sarkar 3/18, Shoriful Islam 3/22) lost to Bangladesh 99/1 in 15.1 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 51 n.o., Anamul Haque 37).
Toss: Bangladesh.
PoM: Sakib; **PoS:** Young;
New Zealand won series 2-1.

Union Minister inaugurates new hostel facilities and synthetic track at SAI

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The latest: Thakur at the inauguration of the Lakshyan Academy of Sports on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur inaugurated two new hostel facilities and a synthetic athletic track at SAI National Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Later in the day, Thakur inaugurated the Lakshyan Academy of Sports.

Thakur did not comment on the election of a close aide of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh as the president of the Wrestling Federation of India.

Wadia and Kashyap triumph

K1000 RALLY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Harkrishan Wadia (co-driver Kunal Kashyap) claimed victory at the Blueband K1000 Rally with 40 points in the sixth and final round of the Blueband Sports FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) for four-wheelers near Gubbi.

Mangaluru's Dean Mascarenhas (co-driver Gagan Karumbaiah) took the second spot. Aroor Arjun Rao (co-driver Satish Rajagopal) had already won the Blueband INRC 2023 overall title, having won the first three rounds.

On top: Wadia and Kashyap logged 40 points. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Saweety and Pooja enter pre-quarters; Nupur advances

BOXING

Press Trust of India
GREATER NOIDA

Saweety Boora and Pooja Rani cruised into the pre-quarterfinals with contrasting wins in the women's National boxing championships here on Saturday.

While Saweety (81kg) faced a tough challenge from Alfiya of Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) before securing a 4-1 win, two-time Asian Championships gold medallist Pooja dominated Renu of Nagaland in the 75kg bout for a 5-0 victory.

Manisha Moun (60kg) and Saneh (70kg) also entered the round-of-16.

Nupur of RSPB won over Himanshi Antil of Delhi 81+kg category after the referee stopped the contest (RSC) and will meet Monica Sahun of Uttarakhand in the quarterfinals.

Rinky Sharma (63kg) beat Tamil Nadu's V. Monisha 5-0.

Bengaluru will hope to extend its winning start under coach Zaragoza

ISL-10

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Gaffer: BFC had beaten Jamshedpur in its first game under Zaragoza. X@BENGALURUFC

Bengaluru FC will hope that its dream start under new head coach Gerard Zaragoza extends a little more when it meets North-East United FC in an Indian Super League fixture at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday.

In the Spaniard's first game in charge last weekend, BFC beat Jamshedpur FC 1-0 for only its second win of the campaign. Three more points for the league's ninth-placed side will brighten up the mood further and help its National team players break for the Asian Cup in good spirits.

Like BFC, NorthEast has also struggled this season, accumulating just 10 points (two wins). But it sits one spot above BFC on better goal difference, despite having played a game less (10 to BFC's 11). Its away record, though, is worrisome. On a 21-match winless streak on the road in the ISL, coach Juan Pedro Benali will be desperate to course-correct.

Both teams will be missing key defenders; BFC centre-back Slavko Damjanovic, who has started nine of 11 matches, is suspended, and so is North-East left-back Tondonba Singh, who has played nearly every minute of his club's 10 ties this season, but for the previous game against Mohun Bagan SG where he was sent off.

Ruby Red claims Chaitanya Chakram Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer Laxman Singh's Ruby Red (Afroz Khan up) claimed the Chaitanya Chakram Cup, the main event of Saturday's (Dec. 23) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla & Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla rep. Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Saleem Fazelbhoy.

THE RESULTS:

1. STEP ASIDE PLATE: IN PROPOSITO (Abhay Singh) 1, Cannon Rose (P. Sai Kumar) 2, Rolls Royce (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Linda (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 3/4, Head and 1. 1m 13. 82s. ₹94 (w), 26 and 14 (p). SHP: 21, THP: 36, SHW: 28 and 14, FP: 331, Q: 150, Tanala: 1,444. Favourite: Cannon Rose.
Owner: Mr. H.S. Srikanth. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

2. ZOOM ZOOM PLATE (Div. I): **LIFE'S LIVING** (Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 1, Happy Go Lucky (Ashad Asbar) 2, Alexina (Ajay Kumar) 3 and Adbhut (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. 2, Neck and Neck. 1m 4. 77s. ₹69 (w), 16, 13 and 12 (p). SHP: 60, THP: 65, SHW: 51 and 17, FP: 424, Q: 197, Tanala: 1,232. Favourite: Alexina.
Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: D. Netto.

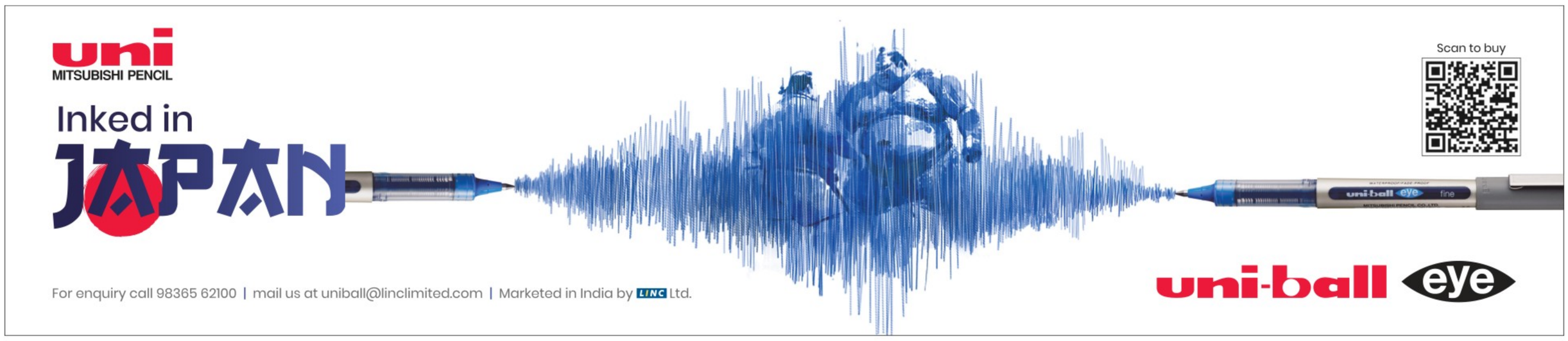
3. SANGAM PLATE (Div. I): **WARWICK** (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Mix The Magic (Vivek G) 2, Antidote (Abhay Singh) 3 and Zadelle (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 4. 4-1/2, 1-1/2 and 3-1/4. 1m 11. 52s. ₹44 (w), 14, 14 and 16 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 61, SHW: 18 and 14, FP: 204, Q: 68, Tanala: 501. Favourite: Mix The Magic.
Owners: Mr. Sunil Kumar Sethi, Mr. E. Anoop Kumar Reddy, Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur, Mr. Ayyadevara Srinivas & Mr. T. Rakesh Reddy. Trainer: Anant Vatsalya.

4. ZOOM ZOOM PLATE (Div. II): **KENAF** (Shivansh) 1, Divine Connection (Md. Ekram Alam) 2, Magnum (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 3 and Garnet (Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 4. 1/2, 3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m 5. 29s. ₹16 (w), 15, 18 and 15 (p). SHP: 51, THP: 35, SHW: 13 and 52, FP: 114, Q: 85, Tanala: 226. Favourite: Kenaf.
Owners: M/s. Harisharan Devgan, Rajesh Sanghani & G.B.R. Prasad. Trainer: L.D'Silva.

5. SANGAM PLATE (Div. II): **DALI'S DESTINY** (Ajay Kumar) 1, Park Lane (Md. Ismail) 2, Deccan Daisy (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Great Giver (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 5-1/4, 2 and Shd. 1m 11. 51s. ₹33 (w), 14, 22 and 20 (p). SHP: 65, THP: 53, SHW: 20 and 47, FP: 292, Q: 162, Tanala: 1,099. Favourite: Chica Bonita.
Owners: Mr. N. Adil Mirza, Ms. Nimrah Mirza & Mr. Mohd. Sohrab Mirza. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

6. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM CUP: RUBY RED (Afroz Khan) 1, Strauss (Vivek G) 2, Star Medal (Md. Ekram Alam) 3 and Capriati (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 5-1/4, 2 and Shd. 1m 23. 75s. ₹47 (w), 18, 16 and 26 (p). SHP: 40, THP: 80, SHW: 28 and 22, FP: 162, Q: 68, Tanala: 3,725. Favourite: Strauss.
Owners: Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla & Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla rep. Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Saleem Fazelbhoy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

7. NEXT MOVE PLATE: SADIYA (Deepak Singh) 1, Reining Queen (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, My Master (Md. Ekram Alam) 3 and Blue Brigade (Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 4. Not run: Platinum Queen. 1-1/4, Shd and Head. 1m 7. 59s. ₹177 (w), 44, 29 and 18 (p). SHP: 105, THP: 48, SHW: 77 and 69, FP: 5,009, Q: 3,922, Tanala: 32,498. Favourite: Inderdhanush.
Owners: M/s. Soma Raju Adipudi, Sriram Uppaluri & Lakshmana Chowdary Yalamnchili. Trainer: Anant Vatsalya.
Jackpot 70%: ₹5,20,396 (1 tkt); 30%: 933 (239 tkts.).
Mini jackpot: (i) 24,264 (7 tkts.); (ii) 13,074 (8 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 1,033 (39 tkts.); (ii) 4,770 (12 tkts.).



A day of the young guns as Anmol proves too hot for Ashmita and Tanvi outlasts Isharani

The 16-year-old and 15-year-old will vie for the women's title; in the men's semifinal, Tharun passes the Bharat test and Chirag stuns Kiran

NATL. BADMINTON

K. Keerthivasan
GUWAHATI

The women's singles finalists are just 16 and 15 at the 85th senior National badminton championships here.

On Saturday, the 16-year-old Anmol Kharb of Haryana, the reigning under-17 girls' champion, showed confidence and maturity beyond her age to stun second seed Ashmita Chaliha of Petroleum 21-17, 21-19 while the 15-year-old Tanvi Sharma of Punjab overcame a spirited challenge from Assam's Isharani Baruah to win 21-15, 20-22, 21-14.

Telangana's M. Tharun, who faced his first big test, scripted a 21-11, 16-21, 21-19 victory over Bharat Raghav of Haryana in the men's singles semifinals.

Prodigy: The 16-year-old Anmol showed maturity beyond her age. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Tharun, seeded fourth, will face Chirag Sen of Indian Railways after the latter produced an outstanding display to get past second seed Kiran George of RBI 21-18, 21-18.

Bharat was subdued throughout the first game and only in the second period of the second half did he start attacking with vigour.

In the third, Tharun led 20-17 but received a yellow card for delaying things.

At 20-18, he protested a line call and hit a forehand long. Just when it looked like he would lose his cool, Tharun finished the contest with a forehand crosscourt winner.

Chirag made too many unforced errors in the first game as he took time to settle down.

He, however, found his rhythm when it mattered most and entered his maiden final.

Exceptional effort

It was an exceptional effort from Chirag to keep a player of Kiran's calibre quiet.

The former's smashes were mostly on target, rattling the latter.

In the women's semifinal, Anmol pushed Ashmita to all corners of the court. She was dictated most of the rallies from the back of the court and was also sharp at the net.

Ashmita made it worse for herself by committing too many unforced errors. Barring a few powerful crosscourt smashes, she couldn't do much and made an exit.

The results (semifinals):

Men: Singles: M. Tharun (TS) bt Bharat Raghav (Har) 21-11, 16-21, 21-19; Chirag Sen (Rlys) bt Kiran George (RBI) 21-18, 21-18.

Doubles: P. Vishnuvardhan Goud & G. Krishna Prasad (TS) bt Hariharan Amsakarunan & R. Ruban Kumar (TN) 21-16, 21-12; K. Pruthvi Roy & Suraj Goala (Asm) bt P. Naveen & V. Lokesh (TN) 21-12, 21-16.

Women: Singles: Anmol Kharb (Har) bt Ashmita Chaliha (Pet) 21-17, 21-19; Tanvi Sharma (Pun) bt Ishrani Baruah (Asm) 21-15, 20-22, 21-14.

Doubles: Ritika Thaker & Simran Singhi (Mah) bt P. Amrutha & Pranjal Prabhu Chimulkar (Kar) 21-11, 21-11; Priya Devi Konjenbgam & Sruti Mishra (UP) bt Mrunmayee Deshpande & Prerana Alvekar (Mah) 21-13, 21-11.

Mixed doubles: Dhruv Kapila (Pun) & Tanisha Crasto (Goa) bt Deep Rambhiya & Akshya Warang (Mah) 21-11, 21-13; Nitin Kumar & Navdha Manglam (Del) bt H. V. Nithin (Kar) & K. Maneesha (RBI) 10-21, 21-18, 21-19.

AITA loses appeal in ITF tribunal, Indian team will have to travel to Pakistan

DAVIS CUP

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The ITF tribunal has rejected AITA's contention that its Davis Cup team could face security concerns during the World Group I Play-off tie in Islamabad, paving the way for an Indian tennis team's visit to Pakistan for the first time in 60 years.

If the Indian team fails to travel to Pakistan, the tie will be awarded to the host country and the Indian team will be relegated to World Group II.

The last time an Indian Davis Cup team travelled to Pakistan was way back in 1964, when it beat the hosts 4-0.

All India Tennis Association (AITA) Secretary General Anil Dhupar confirmed to *PTI* that ITF has rejected their appeal.

"I have got a message that AITA's appeal has been rejected by the ITF Tribunal. We will approach Sports Ministry on Monday and seek guidance if we will send a team," Dhupar told *PTI*.

AITA had recently announced a five-member squad for the February 3-4 World Group I play-off tie and said that if ITF rejects its appeal, it will send the Davis Cup team to Pakistan.

AITA's request for a neutral venue was rejected by the 15-member Davis Cup Committee (DCC) and later the national federation approached the ITF Tribunal.

"The DCC's decision to hold the tie in Pakistan has solid grounds and it is pertinent on all the nations to visit the venue (country) selected by the DCC for the Davis Cup ties," the Tribunal said, Pakistan media reported.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, our client has agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner **Miss.S.SWARNA GOWRI (SUBBARAMAIAH SWARNAGOWRI)** D/o late Sri.S.Subbaramaiah, residing in the Schedule Property. If any persons have any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **14 (Fourteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Municipal No.3 (CITB/BDA Site No.533), PID No.58-93-3,** measuring East to West 30ft and North to South 50ft, in all measuring 1500 Sq.ft, with a house building thereon, situated at **42nd Cross Road, 8th Block Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560070,** within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.179 and bounded as follows:

East by : Property bearing No.534
West by : Property bearing No.532
North by : Property bearing No.526
South by : 42nd Cross Road

Sd/- BAYYA REDDY. M
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 2nd Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 22nd Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp: Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL ASC C & C
(Affiliated to CBSE Delhi)
ASC Centre & College, Lower Agaram Road, Bangalore - 07
Tel : 08025550677, www.apsasc.edu.in

JOB OPPORTUNITIES – PERMANENT POST
(FOR CANDIDATES WHO HAVE PASSED AWES CSB EXAM (OST) AND HAVING SCORE CARD)

1. Post Graduate Teachers (PGT) – English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Accountancy/ Business Studies, Computer Science and Psychology: For Senior Secondary Classes (XI & XII). Qualification: Post Graduate in the subject and BEd/MEd with minimum 50% marks in each.

2. Post Graduate Teachers (PGT) – Fine Arts: For Senior Secondary Classes (XI & XII). Qualification: Post Graduate in the subject with minimum 50% marks.

3. Trained Graduate Teachers (TGT) – Hindi, English, Maths and Science: For Secondary Classes. Qualification – Graduate in the subject and B Ed with minimum 50% marks in each plus qualified in CTET or TET with 60% marks.

4. Primary Teacher (All subjects): Experienced Qualified Teachers to teach all subjects in Primary Classes. Qualification – Graduate in any subject and B Ed or 2 year D El Ed/B El Ed with minimum 50% marks in each plus qualified in CTET or TET with 60% marks..

5. Primary Teacher (Computer): For primary classes - BCA or graduation in Computer Science or BE/B Tech (Computer Science/IT) with minimum 50% marks.

6. Primary teacher (Special Educator): Graduation with B Ed (Special Education) or B Ed General with one year Diploma in Special Education.

Eligibility: (a) **Age:** below 40 years (may be relaxed in case of teachers with experience. (b) **Computer literacy** is mandatory for all the posts. (c) **Interviews only** for short listed candidates tentatively in last week of Jan 2024. (d) No TA/DA admissible. Download the application form from : www.apsasc.edu.in. **ONLY HARD COPY APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED** along with self-attested copies of certificates and ₹100/- DD in favour of APS ASC C & C. Submit filled Application Form on or before **20 Jan 2024.**

PRINCIPAL

Dr. SPM International Institute of Information Technology - Naya Raipur (IIIT-NR)
Sector-24, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar - 493661 (CG)

Ph.D. Admissions Spring -2024

Applications from eligible candidates are invited for admission into Ph.D. programme at Dr. SPM IIIT-Naya Raipur. For details and last date of application, please visit website of IIIT-Naya Raipur (www.iiitnr.edu.in).

Registrar

APPOINTMENT

भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University Under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008

Advt. No. IMU-HQ/R/T/2023/03 Date: 24.12.2023

APPLY NOW "Be part of India's largest Maritime University in realizing the Maritime India Vision 2030" Women candidates are encouraged to apply

A. Special Recruitment drive for regular faculty positions (Backlog) (on Direct Recruitment basis)
B. Empanelment of visiting faculty (Hourly basis)

A. Special Recruitment drive for regular faculty positions (Backlog) (on Direct Recruitment basis)

Applications are invited from the prospective and eligible candidates for the following posts:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Posts	Discipline	No. of Posts	Category	Horizontal Reservation	Academic Pay Level
1.	Professor	Nautical Science	1	SC - 1	*Blindness & Low Vision	Pay Matrix Level-14 (144200-218200)
2.	Associate Professor	Nautical Science	3	OBC-NCL -1, SC-1, ST-1		Pay Matrix Level–13A (131400-217100)
3.	Associate Professor	Marine Engineering	5	OBC-NCL-2, SC-1, ST-1, EWS - 1		
4.	Assistant Professor	Nautical Science	3	OBC-NCL-1, SC-1, EWS-1		Pay Matrix Level-10 (57700-182400)
5.	Assistant Professor	Marine Engineering	4	OBC-NCL-2, ST-1, EWS-1		
		Total	16			

***Out of 16 posts, one post is reserved for Blindness and Low Vision.**

The vacancies stated above are tentative and are subject to change. IMU reserves the right not to fill up any of the posts advertised (or) cancel the recruitment at any stage.

For further details regarding eligibility criteria: Age, Educational Qualifications, Experience, etc., please visit **www.imu.edu.in**.

Benefits: Cumulative Professional Development Allowance – INR 1 lakh per year.

Important dates
Opening date for submission of online application : **24.12.2023**
Closing date for submission of online application : **24.01.2024**
Last date for receiving hard copies of the application : **29.01.2024**

REGISTRAR

B. Empanelment of visiting faculty

Indian Maritime University invites experienced professionals (Merchant Navy, Indian Navy & Industry) to teach in its long and short training programmes. The engagement will be on hourly basis.

To apply, please visit our website **https://www.imu.edu.in/imunew/recruitment**

Note : Empanelment neither guarantees the award of the job, nor any claim for permanent employment at IMU.

REGISTRAR